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INSIDE JANUARY'S ISSUE

TRIBAL - SECTION A



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FEATURES - SECTION B



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SCENE - SECTION C



Section C of *The Muscogee Nation News*: Longest running Native American film festival releases '05 results p. 1; McIntosh Family Story p. 2; Creek Nation Tulsa Gaming Promotions p. 3; and Chili: It's not just for win-tine anymore, food review p. 4.

THIS MONTH'S REMINDER

The first web broadcast of the National Council's regular session meeting and the Chief's State of the Nation speech will be on Saturday, Jan. 28. You must have at least a DSL access to view the live video streaming. Go to the tribal website for instructions and other system requirements.

National Council elects Tiger new speaker



Amos McNac, far left, conducts the swearing in ceremony of the 26-member legislative body of the 14th session.

photo by Carla Brown

by LUCAS TAYLOR
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — A crowd of approximately 300 gathered at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Auditorium to witness the swearing in of the 14th session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council. The newly sworn in representatives elected Creek District representative George Tiger to lead the 26-member legislative body for the next two years as Speaker.

"I am honored to have been selected as speaker for the 14th session," said Tiger. "My main priority is to make

things work in a timely manner, such as legislation. The next two years will be a tremendous challenge, however, with the council working in a unified effort, I believe all challenges will be met."

Tiger defeated Tukpvytce District representative Thomas Yahola, who was speaker of the 13th session.

Creek District representative Roger Barnett defeated Tulsa District representative Cherrah Quiett, and Wagoner/Rogers/Mayes District representative Richard Berryhill for Second Speaker. McIntosh District representative Anthony Notaro was elected sergeant-at-arms by

acclamation.

The following is a list of the National Council committees and its members: Business & Governmental-Shirlene Ade, Sam Alexander, Roger Barnett, Pete Beaver, Bill Fife, and Anthony Notaro; Tribal Affairs-Larry Bible, Ron Clegghorn, Jeff Fife, Robert Jones, Eddie LaGrone, and Thomas McIntosh; Community Services-Sylvanna Caldwell, Bo Johnson, Tom Pickering, Cherrah Quiett, Travis Scott, Paula Willis, and Lena Wind; and Human Development-Richard Berryhill, Johnnie Greene, Duke Harjo, James Jennings, Keeper Johnson, and Thomas Yahola.

Fire shakes Nation; citizens lose homes

by JOSH SLANE

MNN Staff Writer

HOLDENVILLE — On the night of Tuesday, Dec. 27, the long drought and high temperatures conspired with wind gusts of up to 40 miles an hour to create the perfect atmosphere for a terrible blaze. The question wasn't "If?" nor was it "When?" it was merely "Where?" and it was answered with one word, Holdenville.

It was a fire that would claim the homes of three Muscogee (Creek) families and claim the life of Kelly Tiger Sr. Tiger went out and was fighting the fire in an effort to keep his house safe when he had a heart attack. But he was a man of God, and he died fighting to help defend his family and his home, and really, what greater thing can be said about a person?

Faced with three, now homeless

families, the Muscogee Nation did not drag its feet. By Wednesday, Principal Chief A. D. Ellis, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, former National Council members Rita Williams, and

Lola Fields, as well as current National Council members Roger Barnett and Shirlene Ade, Steve Wilson of Elderly Nutrition, Chief of Staff Mike Flud, Della Cherry of Human Development, Sheri Wahnee of Housing, Christy Baldrige of Social Services were on-site giving assistance where needed. Also present was the Chief and Vice Chief of the Seminole Nation, as well as Karen Heard of the Wewoka Indian Health Center.

"I was impressed at how, in less

SEE FIRE A-4



A brick foundation and piles of ashes are all that remains of Betty Tiger's house.

photo by Shirlene Ade

Tribe to vote and decide on historical changes

OKMULGEE — On Feb. 18, Muscogee (Creek) citizens have a special decision to make. A decision that could certainly change the course of tribal history.

National Council Referendum number NCA 05-105 will be asking citizens to consider if they wish to amend the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation by substituting the phrase "The Muscogee (Creek) Nation" with "Mvskoke Etlvhw" and substituting "Muscogee" or Muscogee (Creek) with "Mvskoke". Voters will be asked to check a box for YES in support of the change of titles, or NO in voting against the Amendment and keeping the status quo.

The changes, which will specifically effect Preamble Article I, 1-3; Article II, 1-5; Article III, 1-4; Article IV, 1,2,6, and 9; Article V, 1-4; Article VI, 1,2,4-7; Article VII, 1-3; Article VIII, 3; and Article IX of the Constitution, has been under consideration for a

while and has caused controversy among citizens. Citizens such as Dana Deere, Attorney at Law for Legal Advocates for Indian Country, LLP, feel the name changes need to be made and will give the tribe a more historically accurate title and will be well received by other members.

"There is a good chance it (amendment) will pass," said Deere. "The response has been good. Tribal members understand the purpose of the change once they learned the history of the name. We have adjusted to saying Muscogee, and using Mvskoke Etlvhw would utilize the correct spelling. Young tribal members will grow up saying I am a member of the Mvskoke Etlvhw, and will eventually understand that the English translation is Muscogee Nation. Many tribes such as the Muscogee have initiated language preservation

SEE VOTE A-4

Communications Department to host news show

TULSA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department will be hosting a television news program aired on Cox Cable Channel 3 on Saturday mornings from 11 to 11:30 a.m. beginning Feb. 4, 2006.

"The thirty-minute program will be geared toward a news and information type format show," said Gerald Wofford, Mass Communications Specialist. The

show will be hosted by Wofford and Jason Salsman, Mass Communications Assistant I.

"I think it's a good avenue for our citizens to obtain information on tribal happenings," said Salsman. "We do a radio program, but we're excited about this new project because we feel it provides even more positive exposure for our nation."

reach managing editor Lucas Taylor at: e-mail: lucast@muscogeenation-nsn.gov phone: (918) 732-7634 fax: (918) 758-0824

Office of the Principal Chief

by Chief A.D. Ellis

Happy new year to all tribal citizens and employees. As I write this article, I'm trying to remember the ups and downs of the last 12 months. Time seems to be passing very quickly because we're facing the last two years of this administration. Generally the last two years seem to be the most productive of any new administration because the first two are phasing in new programs, people and laying a permanent foundation to achieve your goals. Our goals are high and may be difficult to achieve, but vision for the future is a trait we must have as tribal leaders.

Many things were accomplished the last two year's. A new clinic is under construction and due completion in May 2006. Also, a new casino and many construction projects are under

way nation wide: our new Muscogee Nation college, the new Industrial park on Hwy 75 north of Okmulgee, and one of the most exciting projects is the long awaited sewer system to the omniplex and the new proposed all purpose basketball gym center. I always give credit where credit is due and none of this could have happened without the National Council and the administration working together. We very often agree and disagree but we were all elected to do the same job, and that to improve the



health and welfare of our Creek citizens. I wish good luck to all council members who are leaving and welcome the newly elected one's to join together and move forward.

Another sad fact is that when your in tribal leadership you make so many friends. Many of my elder friends have recently passed on and I seem to loose several each week.

Just this week we lost Aunt Katie Smith, Sue Dalgarn and Billy Williams. As seniors citizens we should all enjoy life to the fullest and do what makes us and our families happy. Our prayers go out to these families.

Jan. 28, 2006 will be the first council meeting of the new year. This is also the time of my State of the Nation address. I also understand that the Jan. 28 activities well be broadcast live worldwide via

the internet. Also, 10 creek communities will be able to watch the council meeting live on a large screen displayed. This has been our wish for many years and now it's finally happening. Look for many more firsts through the next two years. We are committed to providing this nation with the best and most efficient client service programs available.

Again, may this new year find our citizens, churches and ceremonial grounds enjoying a healthy and happy times.

MVTO!

Quote of the Month
"Always listen to experts. They'll tell you what can't be done and why. Then do it."

LETTERS TO EDITOR:

Coordinator thanks Communications staff

EDITOR: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire staff of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department for the tremendous job that they did in helping to make the Warm Mvskoke Welcome for the Trail of Tears Commemorative Ride a huge success.

Ruth Bible served as the media coordinator and through her efforts and countless hours of work, this first-time event received widespread attention in both Okmulgee and Tulsa. The flyers that were redesigned by your department gained many compliments and were displayed throughout the region.

Special recognition also goes to Carla Brown and everyone who

worked on the design and printing of the event programs. These beautiful programs were greatly appreciated and everyone kept them as souvenirs.

Gerald Wofford was a great M.C. for the historical marker dedication at the Creek Council House and also documented the events with photos and video tape.

The visiting riders were very impressed with the welcome that they received here in Okmulgee and there was a lot of discussion about making the Muscogee (Creek) Nation the permanent destination for this annual ride. As Event Coordinator, I have to say that MCN Communications Department played a major role in the success of this event. Please accept my sincere thanks.

Vicky Karhu, Event Coordinator

Manager declares project a success

EDITOR: I wanted to let everyone know that all the firewood from the 40 acre Industrial Park has been picked up. I also want to thank Michael Nalley for approving this project because it cost MNBE approximately \$15,000 in manpower, equipment and supplies to cut the wood. It was a great way to have a positive impact on our tribal members. Thanks to everyone.

Woody Anderson
MNBE Sales Manager

Citizens gives thanks for assistance

EDITOR: I would like to thank everyone involved for the electric wheelchair that was purchased for me.

SEE LETTERS B-7

November District Court filings

- Civil:**
- Valerie Ann Gallegos v. Bobby Joe Gallegos Petition to Establish Paternity
 - Anne Murphy v. Earl J. Poole, Jr. Petition for Establishment of Paternity, Custody, Visitation, & Support
 - Arthur Pipkin v. Tom Pickering Foreign Judgment
 - Car Mart of Muskogee v. Marta Starr Foreign Judgment
 - Royal Finance v. Billy J. Wilson Small Claims
 - Discover Bank (Discover Card) v. Kyla Gabrielle Van Zile Foreign Judgment
- Criminal Felonies:**
- MCN v. Jeremy Bates Ct. 1 Public Intoxication
 - Ct. 2 Possession of Illegal Drugs
 - MCN v. Cheri Conrad Ct. 1 Possession of Illegal Drugs
 - Ct. 2 Possession of Illegal Drug Paraphernalia
 - Ct. 3 Resisting Arrest
 - MCN v. Leonard Pyles Ct. 1 Possession of Illegal Drugs
 - Ct. 2 Possession of Illegal Drug Paraphernalia
 - Ct. 3 Resisting Arrest
- Criminal Misdemeanor:**
- MCN v. Raymond Tiger Ct. 1 Public Intoxication
 - MCN v. Troy Gene Whitlow Ct. 1 Public Intoxication
- Divorce:**
- Valerie Ann Gallegos v. Bobby Joe Gallegos Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
 - Tracy Jean Wade v. Travis Matthew Wade Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
 - Michael D. Coon v. Louise Coon Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
- Marriage License:**
- Christopher Feeling and Lavonna Squire
- Traffic:**
- MCN v. Clifford Roy Pamell Possession of Alcohol
 - MCN v. Gary Randall Williams Expired Tag
 - MCN v. Garry Duane Simpson Disorderly Conduct
 - MCN v. Garry Duane Simpson Disorderly Conduct
 - MCN v. Garry Duane Simpson Operating a motor vehicle while license is suspended
 - MCN v. Pasha Sadavandi Reckless Driving
 - MCN v. Pasha Sadavandi Driving Under Suspension

- MCN v. Troy Gene Whitlow Open Container
- MCN v. Todd W. Leibovitz Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Todd W. Leibovitz Expired Tag
- MCN v. Todd W. Leibovitz No Insurance
- MCN v. Michelle L. Byers Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Thomas G. Straton Failure to drive car on right side of road
- MCN v. David L. Smith Driving Under Suspension
- MCN v. Henry L. Curtis Young Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Henry L. Curtis Young Open Receptacle
- MCN v. HoyGean Gaines Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Michael L. Brown Driving without required registration
- MCN v. Elizabeth Baker Failure to drive on right side of roadway
- MCN v. William Jones Expired Tag
- MCN v. Charley Epperson, Jr. Expired Tag
- MCN v. Charley Epperson, Jr. No Insurance Verification
- MCN v. Evelyn R. Klahr Failure to drive on right side of roadway
- MCN v. Amulfo A. Saucedo Expired Tag
- MCN v. Amulfo A. Saucedo No Insurance Verification
- MCN v. Hoby A. Cox Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Hoby A. Cox Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Saundra Anita Ramey Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Saundra Anita Ramey Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Steven J. Smith Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Steven J. Smith Disorderly Conduct
- MCN v. Danny Preston Smith Disorderly conduct
- MCN v. Ruben Valencia Gomez Disorderly Conduct

December District Court filings

- Civil:**
- The F&M Bank & Trust Company an Oklahoma corporation v. Josephine Francis in Re: Kaden Ray Vance

- Foreign Judgment Petition for Paternity Determination, Name Change, and Visitation
- Car-Mart of Sapulpa v. Brandy Burks Small Claims
 - Royal Finance v. Ace Buckner Small Claims
 - Royal Finance v. Terry A. Dutchy Small Claims
 - Royal Finance v. Deanna LeGrand Small Claims
- Criminal Felonies:**
- MCN v. Brian Stopp Ct. 1 Possession of Illegal Drugs with intent to Distribute
 - MCN v. Jamie Lockwood Ct. 1 Possession of Firearm on Indian County
 - Ct. 2 Possession of Illegal Drugs
 - MCN v. Bradley Fields Ct. 1 Possession of Illegal Drugs
 - MCN v. Natalie Hickman Ct. 1 Public Intoxication
 - Ct. 2 Possession of Illegal Drug
 - MCN v. Preston Dugan Ct. 1 Possession of Illegal Drugs
 - MCN v. Michael Winap Ct. 1 Possession of Illegal Drug Paraphernalia
- Criminal Misdemeanor:**
- MCN v. George Theirry Ct. 1 Breach of Peace
 - MCN v. Raymond Tiger Ct. 1 Public Intoxication
 - MCN v. Billie Rae Griffin Ct. 1 Cruelty to Animals
- Divorce:**
- Amber Shropshire v. Christopher Foster Petition for Dissolution of Marriage
- Traffic:**
- MCN v. Martha Taylor Expired Tag
 - MCN v. Sandra Fitterman Invalid Drivers License
 - MCN v. Brian Gourd Expired Tag
 - MCN v. Brian Gourd No Insurance
 - MCN v. Robert Wood Expired Tag
 - MCN v. Jimmy Sheridan Disorderly Conduct
 - MCN v. Karen Paige Wimberly Disorderly Conduct
 - MCN v. Eric Scott Loffer Disorderly Conduct
 - MCN v. Eric Scott Loffer Expired Tag
 - MCN v. Helen Ray Expired Tag

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: William Lee Douglas, Jr.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a petition has been filed against you in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, in an action entitled Petition for Adoption without Consent, AD 2005-11, by Petitioner, Misty Michelle Poletek. This summons by publication is specifically directed to William Lee Douglas, Jr., whose whereabouts are unknown.

The nature of this suit against you is a termination of your parental rights concerning the minor child known as J.D.M.

Unless you answer the petition on or before February 1, 2006, judgment will be against you.

by: Jody Thornbrugh,
Deputy Court Clerk
Dawn Strudeviant Baum, MCN 349
Kelly Anne Masters,
Clinical Law Student
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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of the previous month. The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed First Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, CALL (918) 732-7637 or e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

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MNBE hires new operations manager

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise has hired Cromwell native, Steve Johnson, Ret. Colonel USAF as the new Operations Manager.

Before his retirement from the United States Air Force in May of 2005, Johnson was the Deputy Comptroller for the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB in San Antonio, Texas. He served as the Deputy Controller of an \$8 billion provider of flight training, technical training and professional education to over 400,000 Department of Defense students annually. He lead a 78 person, 3 division organization making current and long-range policy and operating decisions for fiscal matters relating to training Air Force military and civilians.



From 2000 to 2002, Johnson served as the Deputy Director of Logistics Management, Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, Tinker AFB. He led 1200 people providing center-wide supply, budgeting, and planning for Air Force's largest Air Logistics Center and managing \$5 billion in three mission areas: Depot Maintenance, Supply Management and Information Management.

"MNBE is excited to have Steve Johnson join our team," said Michael Nalley, Director. Steve brings

a strong financial and organizational management background to MNBE. His role at MNBE is to manage the day-to-day operations of the company, enhance corporate processes and assist in business development. We want to welcome Steve to our Company."

Indian small business owners face new obstacles

This story initially appeared in the *Native American Times* and was written by Sam Lewin. It is reproduced here with the permission of the author.

The head of an organization dedicated to helping Indian entrepreneurs is warning that a combination of factors could harm efforts to secure new loans for small business owners.

"Given increasingly large and sole source contracts for Katrina relief, the war effort in Iraq, etc., the federal agencies must reallocate themselves to using the Small Business Administration's 8(a) and other programs to help increase the percentage of contract awards to small businesses of all types," said Ken Robbins, president of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development and a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of South Dakota. "Federal agencies are short-changing small business by failing to meet their small business contracting goals."

Robbins said a recently released study reveals that a 31 percent decline in contract awards to small businesses, despite a three percent growth in the federal marketplace.

The October study by U.S. House Small Business Committee Democratic Staff measured 22 federal agencies on their ability to meet small business contracting goals and found that nearly all of them were deficient in doing so.

"The Department of Defense performed

best in meeting small business contracting goals," Robbins said. "All small businesses should be up in arms and working together to reverse this shocking decline in contract awards to small and small disadvantaged businesses. Some have criticized 8 (a) contract awards to Alaska Native Corporations over the past few years, but these are just the latest in anti-Indian attacks. The fact is that unless certified 8 (a) firms band together to press for substantial increases in federal contract awards, tribal people and hundreds of thousands of others who have benefited from the 8(a) program will be left without meaningful ways to compete in the enormous federal marketplace."

The center is planning to discuss the crisis during the 20th Annual National Reservation Economic Summit and American Indian Business Trade Fair coming up this February in Las Vegas. The event is the largest Native American business conference and trade show in the United States, and features workshops, contact opportunities, and hundreds of exhibitions.

The center is based in the Arizona town of Mesa and was originally formed in 1969 by six Indian businessmen who according to the organization's website, "experienced the need for business growth assistance and economic parity for urban Indian entrepreneurs."

the people who would be endangered immediately and set out to help them. She went around, in her personal vehicle, getting elders who otherwise would have been trapped by the fire out of its path.

One of the people she helped was Betty Tiger, an elderly Creek Citizen, and her grandson. "I didn't even know what was going on until Winney came," said Tiger. "We didn't even have a way to go anywhere."

Vote

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tion programs. The use of Mvskoke Etlwv supports these initiatives and efforts. From a legal standpoint, the Courts consider culture when deciding a typical Indian law case dealing with sovereignty, regulation or jurisdiction. The Court has to determine if an activity or an ability to regulate an activity is inherently within the sovereign power of an Indian tribe. In the past, the U.S. Supreme Court has taken into consideration the culture of a tribe and how "Indian" the tribe, the activity or land, really is. The continuity of culture of a tribe is also one of the criteria for federal recognition. In addition, the change can be likened to the use of Muscogee instead of Creek."

Although their have been legal and administrative factors in delaying the vote, Deere says also that the basic printing change of the name was also a reason for slow consideration. "Economics was the basis of opposition," says Deere. "The fact that many

Muscogee Nation Trade and Commerce initiates change

by JOSH SLANE

MNN Staff Writer

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade and Commerce has made changes within the administration and the board. Alexis Crosley was recently named as interim director and Jackie Jackson was recently confirmed as vice chair of the Trade and Commerce Authority Board.

The acting interim director of Muscogee Nation Trade and Commerce is Alexis Crosley. Alexis is also the human resources director, drug screening director, marketing manager, and acting general manager for the travel plazas.

She was appointed to this position by Alfred Berryhill, Chairman of the Trade and Commerce Authority Board, as well as Second Chief of the Muscogee Nation. She has worked for the tribe for six years as staffing coordinator, and prior to that retired from working for the Federal Government as Employee Relations and Labor Relations.

Jackson is the Editor-in Chief and Publisher of *Gaming & Tourism*, a monthly magazine that bills itself as *The Statewide Magazine for the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Industry*.

Jackson graduated from Langston University at OSU-Tulsa with a bachelors degree in Business Administration and received an Associates Degree from Seminole Junior College, in Business Administration.

T&C is part of the Muscogee Nation's Economic Development plan. It is a parent company, it's purpose is to create and run other small businesses. It currently has six companies under it.

The first business managed by Trade and Commerce are the travel plazas. Trade and Commerce is responsible for staffing the travel plazas, instructing them as to what they can and can not sell, as well as ensuring that they are a profitable enterprise for the tribe.

There are three travel plazas, one

located at 2800 North Wood Drive in Okmulgee, one located at 3420 1/2 West Peak Boulevard in Muscogee, and one in Cromwell at exit 212 just off of I-40. The Cromwell store is closed until further notice.

The next business under T&C is the Muscogee Nation Screening and Supply Services (MNSSS). This is the drug testing company and is a very busy and hard working part of the tribe. Everyone employed by the tribe, including people employed by the travel plazas have to under go a drug test, and since the inception of MNSSS many of them are done in house, which not only saves the tribe money but makes things much easier on potential employees, keeping them from having to drive to Tulsa for a drug test.

Another business under T&C is the bottled water. It was available during the Festival, and is available for purchase at the travel plazas. These bottles of water have a label with an image of the Principle Chief, A. D. Ellis.

The fourth business under T&C is the Muscogee Document Imaging Company. Document Imaging offers storage, document and record inventory, document and record imaging, microfiche, map, photos, slide and negative imaging, access to documents via secured internet server, removable computer media, and destruction.

Native Professional Engineering Company is the fifth business under Trade and Commerce. It works on bridges and roads, working to not only make a profit, but make our roads and drive home nicer and safer as well as construction jobs.

Farm Authority makes the last company for T&C. The farm grows hay, watermelons, vegetables, as well as takes care of the Nation's cattle and buffalos.

T&C employees 110 people, with approximately 105 of them being Muscogee (Creek) Citizens.

items such as letterhead, cards, and other documents would have to be changed is an economic concern. However, the change can take place gradually and does not have to be an immediate economic burden. For instance, Mvskoke Etlwv is already used for the Code of Laws. So if and when the amendment passes, the use would then be accurate and legal."

Deere says that changes such as this has also affected other tribes. "

Other Ballots to be voted on are: National Council Referendum number NCA 05-106 Shall Article IX be amended to add a new 2 as follows: (A) A Constitutional Convention shall be convened. The Convention shall decide the date of the next Constitutional Convention. (B) The Constitutional Convention membership shall consist of eligible voters of the Nation. (C) A Constitutional Convention Commission is hereby established and shall have the administrative responsibility and authority to conduct the Constitutional Convention. The Constitutional Convention Commission shall consist of one (1) person from each of the three branches of Government and one (1) person from each District selected by the Caucus of the National Council Representative of each respective district. In the event any district Caucus fails to make its appointment to the Commission on or before the first day of March in a convention year the seated members of the Commission shall have the authority to nominate and fill any vacancy. (D) The Constitutional Commission shall organize and promulgate rules and regulations in February and proceed to carry out the process of a Constitutional Convention at will ensure citizen input and participation from throughout the Nation, completing their work on or before next February. The Commission shall conduct public hearings throughout the Nation to accept citizen views on constitutional amendments, revisions, alterations or additions and shall prepare a public report of all proposed amendments, revisions, alter-

ations and additions. The Constitutional Convention Commission shall then work with the Election Board to prepare wording for separate ballots for each amendment, revision, alteration or addition to be submitted at the election, completing with work on or before the last day of February. (E) Constitutional Convention amendments, alterations, revisions or new articles proposed by such Convention shall be submitted to the eligible voters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at a Special Election, called by the Principal Chief within one hundred eighty (180) days, unless there is a General election within one hundred eighty (180) days, and approved by a majority of the eligible voters voting thereon before the same shall be effective. (F) The National Council shall enact such laws as are necessary to ensure a Constitutional Convention is conducted. The National Council shall appropriate necessary funds to accomplish the Constitutional Convention.

National Council Referendum number NCA 05-151 - Shall Article VI, 2(a) be amended to read as follows: "Each representative shall be elected by a vote of the district and shall hold office for four (4) year. These terms of office shall be staggered to ensure that one-half of the Council stands for election every two (2) years. Beginning with the first election after this amendment is approved, those person filing for B and D seats shall serve for a period of two (2) years and those persons filing for A, C and E Council seats shall serve for a period of four (4) years. The B and D seats will stand for election in two years at which time the B and D seats shall commence a four-year term."

The special election will be held Feb. 18. Absentee ballot request forms must be in by Jan. 26. Precinct voter registration closes Feb. 8.

Any registered voter of the tribe may vote as an absentee voter. For more information, contact the Election Board Office at (918) 732-7683 or 1 (800) 482-1979.

Fire

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than twenty four hours, everyone was able to come together and help these people," said Chief Ellis.

And help they did. The three families that were burned out of their homes are receiving alternative housing. On top of that, the National Council, in conjunction with the Office of the Principle Chief, gave each of the families a check for \$5,000 to help them get through the hard times. Also, the National Council appropriated \$82,172 to go to Holdenville to improve fire fighting equipment in an effort to help prevent things like this from happening again and \$100,000 to the Social Services Department's Natural Disaster Act.

Tragedies are perhaps one of the greatest tests of character people will ever face, and during this tragedy, everyone involved has shown themselves willing to work together and cooperate to provide assistance, but even among the stars, there is one whose light is so bright it can be seen above all the others. That is the light of a true Muscogee hero, Winney West, a CHR from the Mvskoke Creek Nation Health System.

"I didn't know what to think," said West. "I just thought I have to get these people out of here. Everything was just happening so fast. People were going and coming, sirens were going and coming."

She learned of the fires and thought of

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

MCN Division of Health Administration

Nurses examine how they can improve diabetes care

OKMULGEE — Twenty-nine nurses working in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System (MCNHS) met with the Diabetes Program staff on Nov. 30, to discuss how diabetes care can be improved.

Johnnie Brasuell, the MCN Diabetes Program Coordinator, began the meeting by sharing a recent power point presentation provided by Dr. Kelly Acton, Director of the IHS National Diabetes Program. Dr. Acton presented recent statistics showing that 14% of the American Indian population have diabetes and, even more alarming data that the greatest increase in the past few years has been in American Indian young adults, ages 20 to 29. This increase was 58% and compares with only a 9% increase in the general population. This fact and new evidence that diabetes can be prevented in persons who have pre-diabetes, set the stage to discuss new procedures to be implemented in each clinic to screen all adults 18 years and older.

The 2005 Diabetes Care Audit showed that many of the previous trends showing improvement in clinic care and better metabolic control for patients remained the same or actually showed a decline. The nurses whose clinics had done well in providing a high level of care according to the 2005 Audit shared the procedures they were using. These ideas and others were examined and will contribute to the next revision of diabetes care policies and procedures.

Other areas of diabetes care were discussed. These included yearly clinic, preventive foot care and hypertension care. Clinical processes for two new programs, the cardiovascular risk reduction grant, "MCN Healthy Heart Project" and the "ABC's and Numbers for Healthy Diabetes" were discussed and some specifications were made. Draft posters by the Diabetes Program and the MCN Communications staff were reviewed and changes suggested. A second meeting to follow-up on these discussions will be held in the spring.

Hop to Stop Diabetes

MASON — The MCN Diabetes Program is providing an after school jump rope program for the students at Mason School and Okemah Middle School. At Mason 32—eighth grade students are participating and at Okemah Middle 75 fourth—eighth grade students are jumping every Tuesday after school.

The students learn many different jump rope tricks and skills, such as double dutch and partner jumping during practice once per week. Diabetes prevention lessons on good nutrition and the importance of being physically active are taught throughout the program.

Each jump rope team will travel to perform a jump rope show for basketball halftimes and elementary students at different schools throughout the year. Staff members from both schools are helping to facilitate the program with the idea of keeping the jump rope program going at each school in the following years.

The funding for the program is being provided through a grant received from the Indian Health Service Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Program.



Mason students hop to stop Diabetes.

Move It! and Prevention Diabetes Program

OKMULGEE — This is the third year of the Move It! Program and two new schools from Okmulgee and Creek counties were added this year. This is the third and final year for the McIntosh County schools Ryal, Dustin, Stidham, and Hanna. This is the second year for the Okfuskee County schools Mason, Bearden, Graham, and Weleetka. The two new schools in the first year of the Move It! Program are Mounds and Wilson public schools. Within these ten schools, the Move It Program will be working with over 1,200 students this year.

The Move It! program lasts for three years, by the third year the program hopes to have made an impact on the schools PE program, school lunch program, school health policies, and the overall way the students and staff look at their health.



Students participate in Move It! Program as a healthy lifestyle.

"We hope the new attitudes toward a healthy school environment and school health policies will help the school sustain the healthy changes in the years following the Diabetes Program staff leaving the school," said

at each school. We also teach diabetes prevention lessons and encourage the student to be more physically active after school by providing monthly prize drawings for students who turn in Move It! coupons for exercising or playing 30 minutes for each coupon. This program has shown positive outcomes in the program pre/post fitness testing and feedback from parents and school staff. We hope to continue adding 400 to 500 students each year."

This program is provided by the MCN Diabetes Program and the Oklahoma State Health Department. The funding for this program was provided by the Muscogee Creek Nation National Council.

For more information regarding the Move It Program or information on Diabetes prevention, contact Scott Robison at (918) 623-1424.

First Indian Health Care to receive Level Three Recognition for Diabetes Care

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation is first in Indian Health Care to Receive Level 3 Recognition for Diabetes Care. Diabetes Program Coordinators in each of the MCN Health Centers applied to Indian Health Service (IHS) Integrated Diabetes Education Recognition Program for extension of Level 2 recognition and for initial recognition for Level 3. Level 2 was awarded in April, 2005 and Level 3 was awarded November 30, 2005.

The MCN diabetes care systems are the first in IHS, tribal and urban (I/T/U) to receive this recognition. What is the IHS Diabetes Education Recognition Program? The IHS Integrated Diabetes Education Recognition Program is a national accreditation program, approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), that promotes and recognizes quality diabetes education programs in the Indian health system meeting the *National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management* issued May 2000.

The IHS Recognition Program enables IHS, tribal and urban (I/T/U) programs serving American Indians and Alaska Natives to seek recognition of quality diabetes education and care services. It is the only national accreditation program that recognizes program integration of educational, clinical, and public health standards.

The IHS Recognition Program offers a three-stage approach for programs to meet recognition requirements—Level 1: Developmental, Level 2: Educational and Level 3: Integrated. These stages are outlined in the *Standards, Review Criteria and Application Manual* available from the IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention (DDTP). The IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention (DDTP) awards Diabetes Education Program Recognition to Indian health programs meeting Level 1 and Level 2 review criteria.

Programs meeting all three levels receive Integrated Diabetes Program Recognition. How does receiving IHS Recognition benefit our sites? IHS Recognition acknowledges the quality of diabetes education programs, allows them to seek Medicare reimbursement of diabetes self-management education

(DSME), and enhances the acceptance of our programs in the community and by our providers.

The MCN Diabetes Education coordinators report that the work involved meeting recognition standards and review criteria helped them improve the quality of their diabetes education, clinical care and community awareness programs. Improved systems of diabetes care and an increase in patients' knowledge and skills in self-management are outcomes of recognized programs.

The most important outcome of all is the increasing number of patients that are keeping their blood sugars in a good range. The percentage of those with controlled blood sugars has increased from 19% before the program started to 45% in the 2005 evaluation.

Consequences of smoking

OKMULGEE — In the 2004 Surgeon General's report the health consequences of smoking were highlighted detailing a number of diseases caused by smoking. Cancer of the bladder, kidney, cervix, esophagus, lung, oral, pancreas, and stomach were listed, along with leukemia. Among the list of cancers were a number of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and reproductive effects that are directly caused by cigarette smoking.

The report concluded that smoking affects nearly every organ of the body causing many diseases and reducing the health of smokers in general. However, quitting smoking has immediate and long term benefits because it reduces the risk for disease caused by smoking and improving health in general.

The list of cancer and other diseases caused by smoking is lengthened every year. Reminding patients, clients, and loved ones that smoking can and will affect them and that by quitting they are lengthening and improving the quality of their lives.

If one of your New Year Resolutions is to improve the quality of your health by quitting smoking, contact the nearest Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Center. Stop Smoking Classes are available to registered patients.

For more information, contact Cynthia Tainpeah at (918) 756-6231.

DOCTOR'S NOTE

Dr. Lawrence Vark, DO, CMO

Combat winter weight gain

Exercise will help you counteract holiday weight gain, as well as improve your health. Obesity has been linked to increased risk of heart disease and stroke, as well as diabetes and cancer. Sixty percent of adult Americans are either overweight or obese. Middle-aged folks are not the only ones susceptible to getting a "spare tire" around their waist. The number of overweight adolescents has tripled since 1980. 14% of those ages 12 to 19 are considered to be overweight, and three quarters of them remain overweight as adults.

To get started, experts recommend at least three 20 minute sessions of exercise per week. If you are trying to lose a significant amount of weight, 5 times a week may be what you need. Remember, the elderly or people with health problems should consult with their doctor before doing anything strenuous. Some winter chores and activities are good forms of exercise, for example, leaf raking or hauling wood. Take the stairs instead of the escalator or elevator. The President's Counsel on Physical Fitness and Sports (PCPFS) has many publications about how to design your own exercise regimen.

If you ride a subway or bus to work, get off one stop early to get some extra exercise. If you live in a climate with little or no snow and ice, consider taking a walk after dinner each night, but not too close to bedtime. Be sure to be safe when you walk outdoors. Stick to well-lit, familiar areas, and walk with a partner if it makes you feel more comfortable. AARPhas tips suitable for people of all ages about how to get the most out of a walking workout. For example, pump your arms to increase calorie burn by 20%.

The following publications are available from FCIC: www.firstgov.gov: Fitness and Exercise, Losing Weight: More Than Counting Calories, Weight Loss For Life, Finding A Weight Loss Program That Works For You, Exercise and Your Heart, and Staying Healthy At 50+ are publications available for ordering from the Health Page.

Visit the website at: www.fitness.gov or contact your health clinic for guidance.

Housing makes holiday's special for Sheldon family

By Jason Salsman
MNN Staff Writer

JENKS — Sandra Sheldon and her family have experienced their share of hard times. Sheldon's oldest son is afflicted with muscular dystrophy, and genetic disease characterized by the progressive weakening of the skeletal and muscular structure that controls movement. As if that was not enough to cope with, Sheldon also has three younger sons that show signs of muscle weakness.

The Sheldon's recently faced a dilemma with regards to their home and oldest son's disease confining him to a wheelchair. They had received a home through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division, but because of their oldest son's disease, the house was not properly equipped to accommodate their situation. "The doorways needed to be wider, the bathrooms were not accessible, it was just really hard," Sheldon said.

The Housing Division viewed this as an opportunity to help this family that was desperately in need. Housing was originally scheduled to handicap the home for the Sheldon's until another window was opened. A larger, handicap accessible home in Jenks entered

the market, and after working with their funding source, NAHASDA, Housing purchased the home and provided it to the family under their Lease with Option to Purchase program.

"With the size of the house they needed and the accommodations they needed, we had to get additional costs approved," said Housing Division Development Specialist Stacey Settemyer. "This family has been very patient and in the end the house they received was everything they needed, it was just perfect."

Now the Sheldon's are in a new home that fits their needs. "The Housing Division has been such a blessing to us," said Sandra Sheldon. "This has helped our family out tremendously and the timing couldn't have been better."

The home not only came at the perfect time, but at the perfect location as well. The Jenks school district is one of the best handicapped equipped schools in the state.

"There are so many at Creek Nation that were involved in this and we are so thankful," said Sheldon. "Without them, none of this would have been possible."

Housing Employee receives 20 year service award

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division employee, Melinda Deeringwater, was recently presented a 20 year service award at this year's Employee Christmas gathering.

Melinda has been an employee at Housing since 1985. She has worked at numerous job positions and is presently a systems operator in the Administrative Services Department.

Melinda began her employment as a receptionist at housing, threw out the years she has met many clients and has made many new friends and has watched some fill out applications, get new houses and even watched some pay off their houses. She takes lots of pride in her work, even though her department now only deals with the accounts, she still goes out of way to help clients with any problems or situations they may have.

Melinda's future plans are to retire and one day own her own business, she is currently working on her bachelors' degree in Business Administration. Housing congratulates Melinda on reaching this milestone in her career.



Unprobated land policy issue addressed by housing

OKMULGEE — The Housing Division implemented a new policy change for the Rehabilitation of Privately owned homes for the purpose of helping tribal citizens who live on unprobated trust/restricted property.

Previously the policy stated that applicants must show proof of ownership of their primary place of residence which included a deed. Applicants living on unprobated restricted land typically do not own a deed to the house or the land on which they were living and often went unassisted for this reason.

Originally intended to safeguard

against abuses the policy requirement excluded some of our needy but deserving citizens from the program. With many of our tribal citizens still living on unprobated trust/restricted land the change will allow more Tribal citizens to be served through this program.

"This policy change will hopefully make it easier for the Housing Division to serve deserving and eligible applicants," said Principal Chief A.D. Ellis. "Persons who had previously applied to the program but were declared ineligible because of the unprobated land issue are urged to reapply."

Housing Division to begin Home Coverage for Creek Citizens

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division/Authority will begin a new tribal service designed to provide property coverage for Creek Citizens who are renting or own their own homes.

The Community Shield Protection Program, created by Amerind Risk Management Corporation and administered by the Housing Division with financial assistance from the Housing Authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, will offer protection against damages caused by fire, storm, or other natural disasters. Not covered in the plans are flood, theft, and vandalism.

"We feel that the new program will give our citizens an affordable protection plan for their homes and I encourage all interested Creek Citizens to check into the services this program offers," stated Principle Chief Ellis.

The Housing Division is offering three basic coverages for homeowners and one for renters. Each coverage includes protection for personal prop-

erty, personal liability, and emergency living expenses. The homeowner coverage also includes protection for the dwelling.

To be eligible for the program applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Citizens, reside within the state of Oklahoma and use the dwelling to be covered as their principle place of residence.

The Housing Division and Amerind Risk Management retain the right to inspect the covered property, and require loss prevention efforts on part of the participants and does not assume responsibility for maintenance of the covered property.

The participant will be solely responsible for filing all claims directly to Amerind and claim payments will be based on replacement cost up to the coverage limits.

For more information about the program contact Lenora McPerryman at (918) 756-8504 or 800-259-5050 Ext. 4117

CARD OF THANKS TO HOUSING

My home was recently rehabbed by R&J Construction through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division. I am satisfied and pleased with the workmanship and results of the rehab. Also, I am very grateful to everyone involved in this project and send special thanks to Robert Lay, Contractor, Joe Norman, Contractor, Tony Lowe, Inspector, and the Housing Division for establishing a much needed rehab program. MVTO! MVTO! MVTO!

A delighted customer,
Wanda Mills

Mortgage Assistance Program expands statewide

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mortgage Assistance Program has recently expanded its services to cover the complete state of Oklahoma. The Mortgage assistance program was available only to Creek Citizens living within the Creek Nation boundaries, but with the recent approval of policy change by the National Council, the Mortgage Assistance Program is the first housing program to be administered outside tribal boundaries.

When the new administration came into office two years ago and created the housing division, Chief Ellis wanted to help more creek citizens stabilized. This new expansion does just that by serving creek citizens throughout the entire state of Oklahoma in becoming homeowners.

With many Native American families finding it difficult becoming homeowners due to the high cost of obtaining a mortgage loan, the Mortgage Assistance Program is designed to help eligible clients with the financial assistance needed to acquire a mortgage loan. The Mortgage Assistance Program helps Native American people become first time homeowners by assisting them with out of pocket expenses, such as down payment and closing fees. The assistance is provided as a grant for families who meet program requirements

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the program, clients must meet the following requirements established by The Mortgage Assistance Program and by the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA).

- Be a first time home buyer.
- Not be an existing or former Mutual Help Participant of NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with option to Purchase regardless of a Housing Service Area
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income published by HUD
- Be 18 years or older
- Provide all requested information, CDIB for preference purposes, Social Security cards, and employment verification for each working family member on the required forms.
- Sign all required forms including the consent for disclosure of information.
- Be able to meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance form an approved and certified financial lender.
- Preference given to Creek Citizens

referred to an outside lender who will then determine if the client qualifies for a mortgage loan. The applicant must be aware that MAP pre-approval does not guarantee a mortgage loan from an outside lender.

Frequently Asked Questions

what are the income guidelines?

NAHASDA Income guidelines are based on 80% of the National Median Income (NMI) as provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Can I apply if I currently live out of state, but want to move back to Creek jurisdiction?

Yes, as long as the applicant will be buying and living in the home permanently within Oklahoma

Do I have to find my own lender?

We will refer you to a lender that is familiar with the Mortgage Assistance Program.

Does the Mortgage assistance have to be repaid?

The Mortgage Assistance Program offers the assistance as a grant. Only if you sell your home or if you are foreclosed on within five year period from the date or receiving the grant would you have to repay it.

Applying For Services

- 1) Submit a Mortgage Assistance Program application complete with copies of all necessary documents.
- 2) The Mortgage Assistance Department will determine if the applicant meets all the program criteria.
- 3) A letter of eligibility and supporting documents will be given to the client to take to a lender recommended by the Mortgage Assistance Program.
- 4) The lender will determine pre-approval of mortgage loan.
- 5) If approved by the lender for a loan, the applicant must locate a home for purchase.
- 6) Mortgage Assistance will prepare the down payment and closing costs assistance check.
- 7) Mortgage Assistance Department will go to the closing with their client and will provide the lender with the check and other necessary documents.
- 8) The loan will close.

For more information call or write: Mortgage Assistance Program, Vicky Curry, 918-759-4137 or 1-800-259-5050, P.O. Box 297, Okmulgee, OK 74447

If a client meets all program requirements they will be pre-approved and

reach Mallory Bible housing reporter at: e-mail:mbible@muscogeenation-nsn.gov phone: (918) 732-7639

Summer Youth Employment Program
OKMULGEE — The Summer Youth Employment Program is an opportunity for inexperienced youth to receive hands on training in a tribal environment. The Summer Youth Program is designed to provide Native Americans between the ages of 16 and 21 with work experience and the opportunity to develop life skills.

Danna Minnick, Summer Youth Employment Program Manager, has been employed as manager for 21 years. "When I see young people come back to the tribe it makes me feel secure about the future because it's in the hands of dedicated, educated, and caring young adults," says Danna Minnick.

Over the years, the Summer Youth Program has produced current employees at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, such as Human Development Administrative Assistant, Barbara Dunn, a fellow former student of the Summer Youth Program.

The Summer Youth Employment Program receives funding from the Federal Labor Department, as well as from the tribe. The program's intent is to further the opportunity for young people to learn skills that will allow pride in their work, themselves, and self-sufficiency. This program is one of Human Development's most important programs because it enhances the future, tribe, Oklahoma, and the United States.

Minnick explains how the jobs are more career oriented, where as in the past, there were mainly manual labor as opposed to now where there is a more hands on effect. For an example, if a student was to attend Green country Vo-Tech in a certain

field, they would receive the opportunity to work in that field for a hands on effect in hopes of later pursuing a career in that field.

All the worksites who participate and open their facilities to the youth every summer help further the opportunities for the youth.



Pictured are Cindy Russell and Danna Minnick standing.

All participants work forty hours a week. The eight-week program helps young people gain experience, training, responsibility and money. College students are welcomed. There are no educational requirements and the program will work around summer classes. The position is full time. Participants must live inside the eight county boundary area and be enrolled with any federally recognized tribe.

Applicants call to apply and those determined eligible are provided with a Summer job in their local community. Applications will be accepted beginning Jan. 31 through March 31.

To apply call Muscogee (Creek) Na-

tion Employment and Training at 1 (800)482-1979 or 918-732-7775, 7776.

U.S. Department seeks names

MUSCOGEE — The U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Office of the Special Trustee for America Indians (OST), may have money for you, or for someone you know. OST is responsible for managing income collected from the use of trust assets or awards for individual Indian Trust beneficiaries and tribes. OST invests more than \$60 million in Indian Trust accounts for over 48,000 people whose whereabouts are currently unknown due to outdated or incomplete contact information.

We have currently as of October 31, 2005 for Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Seminole Nation about 270 accounts totaling \$260,000. To find out if you are on the Whereabouts Unknown list: Check with your Fiduciary Trust Officer. Go to www.doi.gov/ost and click "Locating IIM Account Holders." Call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center, toll-free, (888) 678-6836 ext. 0. Keep your address current.

If you are an Individual Indian Money account holder call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center if you change your name or address or write OST, attn: Address Change, 4400 Masthead Street NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87109.

Here is a list of names on the OST's Unknown list: Alan W. Porter, Albert L. Fish, Albert Johnson, Alex P. Wolfe, Alice (Goat) McLaughlin, Alice (Whitlow) Wattie, Alice Spencer, Alvin Sands, Amanda J (Yahola) Martinez, Amany Factor, Amber J. Unah, Amy (Cully) Owings, Andrew Burgess, An-

gela Barnett, Angela Cully, Angela Mitchell. Additional OST's Unknown list may be viewed in the February issue of the Muscogee Nation News.

Realty Department upcoming meeting

OKMULGEE — The Realty Department would like to advertise the upcoming meeting with Oklahoma Indian Legal Services. Oklahoma Indian Legal Services will be here Wednesday, Feb. 1, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Anyone wanting to meet with a representative can call (918) 732-7713 and schedule an appointment.

Friendship Force seeks youth applicant

OKLAHOMA CITY — Friendship Force of Oklahoma is seeking a talented Native American min age 16 to apply for a travel grant to join our club May 15-June 1, on a cultural/friendship exchange with home-hosting by German families. The deadline to apply is Feb. 1.

For more information, contact Exchange Director Beth Allen-Eden at 751-8252 or visit Friendship Force of Oklahoma at www.friendshipforce.org.

2006 Scholarships Scholarships

HENRYETTA — For the Love of the Game is offering 10 scholarship in conjunction with third annual All-Indian March Madness basketball on March 15-19 at the Henryetta gymnasium.

The deadline for the scholarship application is February 24, 2006. For more information or to download an application in a PDF format visit www.4loveofthegame.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Division of Health

Van Driver-Muscogee-ENP (Part-time)

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler's permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

Van Driver-Twin Hills-ENP (Part-time)

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler's permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

Van Driver - Okmulgee - ENP (Part-time)

High School diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler's permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.

Clinician - Behavioral Health Services

A Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology or related field. One (1) year relevant experience in counseling, LPC, LMFT or LCSW licensure/certifications valid in the State of Oklahoma is preferred. Incumbents who do not possess valid licensers/certifications as specified must be actively working toward obtaining this licensure/certification.

Clinical Director - Behavioral Health Services

A Ph.D. or Psy.D. in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an accredited college/university. Five (5) years experience as a licensed psychologist. Five (5) years of managerial or supervisory experience. Current Licensure by the State of Oklahoma as a Psychologist or Health Services Psychologist is required.

Patient Registration Clerk - Okemah

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Completion of a program or training in Medical Office Technology or a related field is preferred. A minimum of one (1) year relevant experience is required.

Staff Dentist - Sapulpa

A DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and a certificate from an accredited General Practice Residency program. Or, a DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Licensure or ability to be licensed to practice dentistry in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, or in

the District of Columbia. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements.

Physician

Candidates must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of medicine receiving a M.D. or D.O. and must possess a current State of Oklahoma license to practice medicine, a DEA license, Medicare provider agreement, and ACLS certification. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements. Incumbent must possess current State of Oklahoma License to practice medicine and/or be able to obtain this license prior to employment with the Health System.

Pharmacist - Eufaula (Part-time)

Incumbent must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of Pharmacy or is a Public Health Service (PHS) Pharmacy Officer. One (1) year of relevant experience as a Pharmacist or PHS Pharmacy Officer. Incumbent is required to possess a current Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy license or current license as required by the PHS Commissioned Corp.

Nurse Practitioner - (Float Status)

Successful completion of an accredited course of study specifically designed for training professional Mid-Level Providers. Three (3) years of relevant experience. Course of study or program completed by the incumbent must be approved by a nationally recognized professional medical body such as the AMA, AAMC or other body established for this purpose.

Paramedic - Okemah

Completion of courses/training to satisfy State and/or National Paramedic Licensure and ACLS certification is required. ACLS certification requires a minimum of 250 hours of training. Current State and/or National licensure/certifications required for Paramedics and current ACLS certification is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and clean driving record is required.

Staff Dentist - Coweta (3 Positions)

A DDS or DMD from a dental school

accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and a certificate from an accredited General Practice Residency program. Or, a DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Licensure or ability to be licensed to practice dentistry in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, or in the District of Columbia. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements or a new graduate preferably within an HIS preceptorship (internship).

Staff Psychologist - BHS

A Ph.D. in Clinical or Counseling Psychology from an accredited program is required. Oklahoma license (or license eligible) as a Psychologist or Health Services Psychologist (preferred). Must be CADC certified or CADC eligible. A minimum of one (1) year clinical experience (may include internship) in a tribal setting (preferred).

Pharmacist - Coweta (2 Positions)

Incumbent must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of Pharmacy or is a Public Health Service (PHS) Pharmacy Officer. One (1) year of relevant experience as a Pharmacist or PHS Pharmacy Officer. Incumbent is required to possess a current Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy license or current license as required by the PHS Commissioned Corp.

Incumbent must be a graduate of an accredited college/university of medicine receiving a M.D. or D.O. and must possess a current State of Oklahoma license to practice medicine, a DEA license, Medicare provider agreement, and ACLS certification. One (1) year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three (3) additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements. Incumbent must possess current State of Oklahoma License to practice medicine and/or be able to obtain this license prior to employment with the health system.

Cook's Aide - Muskogee (Part-time)

High School Diploma or GED equivalent and one (1) year related work experience. Incumbent must possess a valid food handlers permit and a valid Oklahoma State Drivers License and be insurable.

Physician Assistant- Coweta (2 Positions)

Successful completion of an accredited course of study specifically designed for training professional Mid-Level Providers. One (1) year of relevant experience preferred. Course of study or program completed by the incumbent must be approved by a nationally recognized professional medical body such as the AMA, AAMC or other body established for this purpose.

Medical Lab Technician-Okemah

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Successful completion of 60 semester hours of academic credit necessary to satisfy requirements of the position as well as a structured curriculum in Medical Laboratory Techniques at an accredited institution is preferred. Two (2) years of relevant full-time Laboratory experience performing highly complex testing as a Technician Trainee may be substituted for the educational requirements. Certification as a MLT through the ASCP is preferred.

Optometrist - Coweta

O.D. Degree received from an accredited college of Optometry. A minimum of one (1) year relevant experience. Valid License issued by the State of Oklahoma to practice Optometry.

Optometry Technician - Okemah

High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. One (1) year related experience in an Optometry Clinic is preferred.

EMT Basic - Okemah

Completion of courses/training to satisfy State and/or National Paramedic Licensure requirements for a Basic EMT. One (1) year related experience is preferred. Incumbent must possess current State and/or National licensure/certifications required for a Basic EMT and have completed training in Basic Life Support. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and clean driving record is required.

Paramedic - Okemah

Completion of courses/training to satisfy State and/or National Paramedic Licensure and ACLS certification is required. ACLS certification requires a minimum of 250 hours of training. Current State and/or National Licensure/certifications required for Paramedics and current ACLS certification is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and clean driving record is required.

For more information, visit the website at: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov or call (918)756-4333 or (800)782-8291.

Financial

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MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

January 2006

GENERAL FUND:	BUDGETS	ENCUMBERED	EXPENDED	BALANCE
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	261,208.00	0.00	26,266.00	234,942.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOP/LAND	2,549,700.00	0.00	61,274.00	2,488,426.00
TREASURY	3,223.00	0.00	283.00	2,940.00
ANGEL TREE	2,173.00	0.00	1,704.00	469.00
LITIGATION & LOBBYING	34,903.00	34,903.00	0.00	0.00
GENERAL TAXES & LICENSES	740,517.00	0.00	556,360.00	184,157.00
MOTOR FUEL TAXES	1,160,184.00	19,896.00	899,422.00	240,866.00
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	3,236,117.00	250.00	2,915,370.00	320,497.00
CONSUMER LOANS	0.00	0.00	1,521.00	(1,521.00)
CREEK NATION BINGO	24,980,794.00	1,577,178.00	18,066,567.00	5,337,049.00
CN PERMANENT FUND	1,979,346.00	275,913.00	922,081.00	781,352.00
TOM JOHNSON PERM FUND	0.00	0.00	116,684.00	(116,684.00)
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	3,620.00	0.00	2,071.00	1,549.00
HENSSLER ASSET MGMT	0.00	0.00	79,347.00	(79,347.00)
NICWA	3,689.00	0.00	337.00	3,352.00
MCN OVERSIGH COMMITTEE	87,357.00	23,312.00	50,656.00	13,389.00
FIRST CAPITAL MGMT PREM	0.00	0.00	101,296.00	(101,296.00)
BANK ONE CONSOLIDATION	0.00	0.00	1,022.00	(1,022.00)
VALLEY NAT'L BANK	36,800.00	0.00	3,510.00	33,290.00
TRIBAL BUDGET	537,000.00	0.00	515,028.00	21,972.00
MCN FLAGS & ETC	2,900.00	0.00	2,895.00	5.00
MOTOR VEHICLE	2,626,972.00	0.00	2,346,431.00	280,541.00
WARM MVS KOKE WELCOME	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND:	38,248,503.00	1,931,452.00	26,672,125.00	9,644,926.00
DEPT. OF LABOR:				
WIA-TITLE I '02	271.00	0.00	271.00	0.00
WIA-TITLE IVA '03	8,083.00	0.00	8,083.00	0.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '03	7,488.00	0.00	7,488.00	0.00
WIA-TITLE IVA '04	525,612.00	0.00	497,035.00	28,577.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '04	333,328.00	0.00	314,973.00	18,355.00
WIA-TITLE IVA '05	587,882.00	470.00	165,787.00	421,625.00
WIA-SUMMER YOUTH '05	435,625.00	1,558.00	146,798.00	287,269.00
TOTAL DEPT OF LABOR:	1,898,289.00	2,028.00	1,140,435.00	755,826.00
HOUSING & URBAN DEV:				
HUD-NAHASDA '00	1,480,511.00	0.00	1,480,480.00	31.00
HUD-SPALPA CLINIC	7,158.00	0.00	7,158.00	0.00
HUD-NAHASDA '01	6,276,463.00	3,091,743.00	1,771,421.00	1,413,299.00
HUD-FOOD DISTRIBUTION	18,837.00	3,556.00	627.00	14,654.00
HUD-NAHASDA '02	12,597,671.00	2,655,178.00	4,783,559.00	5,158,934.00
HUD-NAHASDA '03	19,224,503.00	718,375.00	7,330,270.00	11,175,858.00
TOTAL HUD:	39,605,143.00	6,468,852.00	15,373,515.00	17,762,776.00
DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SVC:				
FAMILY PRESERVATION '03	3,582.00	0.00	147.00	3,435.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '03	164,091.00	0.00	163,432.00	659.00
CCDBG MANDATORY '03	362,419.00	0.00	354,081.00	8,338.00
TITLE IV-B '03	0.00	0.00	(1,013.00)	1,013.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE '03	11,999.00	0.00	9,839.00	2,160.00
LIHEAP '04	56,757.00	0.00	56,755.00	2.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION '04	170,384.00	0.00	170,006.00	378.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '04	1,312,486.00	30,631.00	1,028,588.00	253,267.00
CCDBG MANDATORY '04	1,174,011.00	51,485.00	1,050,062.00	72,464.00
HEAD START '04	821,507.00	0.00	774,137.00	47,370.00
TITLE IV-B '04	240,771.00	0.00	240,771.00	0.00
FAMILY VIOLENCE '04	234,297.00	549.00	211,068.00	22,680.00
LIHEAP '05	225,251.00	10,325.00	157,682.00	57,244.00
FAMILY PRESERVATION '05	218,497.00	12,759.00	64,740.00	140,998.00
CCDBG DISCRETIONARY '05	1,410,247.00	695.00	137,222.00	1,272,330.00
CCDBG MANDATORY '05	2,372,333.00	5,483.00	1,524,616.00	842,234.00
HEAD START '05	2,113,545.00	27,830.00	1,558,291.00	527,424.00
TITLE IV-B '05	242,369.00	163.00	493.00	241,713.00
TOTAL DHHS:	11,134,546.00	139,920.00	7,500,917.00	3,493,709.00
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE:				
FOOD DISTRIBUTION '05	389,000.00	417.00	386,156.00	2,427.00
TOTAL USDA:	389,000.00	417.00	386,156.00	2,427.00
PROGRAM INCOME:				
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	17,307.00	0.00	17,307.00	0.00
MCN CHILD DEV. CENTER	865,675.00	1,441.00	244,934.00	619,300.00
USDA HEADSTART REIMBURSE	169,000.00	38,153.00	124,203.00	6,644.00
EUFULA DORM ACTIVITY FUND	34,474.00	4,246.00	11,531.00	18,697.00
TIP PROGRAM INCOME	5,631.00	0.00	0.00	5,631.00
ELECTION BOARD	14,658.00	0.00	7,726.00	6,932.00
COMMUNICATIONS REVOLVING	5,500.00	0.00	4,470.00	1,030.00
GAMING REVOLVING	58,919.00	0.00	14,852.00	44,067.00
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	15,043.00	0.00	13,083.00	1,960.00
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	5,900.00	0.00	2,075.00	3,825.00
INDIAN RESERVATION ROADS	75,675.00	0.00	3,000.00	72,675.00
TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME:	1,267,782.00	43,840.00	440,181.00	708,086.00
DEPT OF EDUCATION:				
LIBRARY SERVICE BASIC	4,000.00	0.00	3,495.00	505.00
LIBRARY SERVICE PROFESSIONAL	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
LIBRARY SERVICE-ENHANCEMENT	129,562.00	9,920.00	21,255.00	98,387.00
TOTAL DEPT OF EDUCATION:	135,562.00	9,920.00	24,750.00	100,892.00
DEPT OF INTERIOR:				
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	14,816,538.00	130,780.00	4,711,908.00	9,973,850.00
DOI-ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP	7,576.00	0.00	0.00	7,576.00
EUFULA DORMITORY '01	48,063.00	0.00	48,063.00	0.00
LAMAR ROAD	33.00	0.00	33.00	0.00
KELLYVILLE ROAD	5,000.00	0.00	4,875.00	125.00
LITTLE CUSSETH CHURCH RD	64,298.00	0.00	48,757.00	15,541.00
OKEMAH SCHOOL ROAD	51,715.00	0.00	32,065.00	19,650.00
THEWARLE CHURCH ROAD	29,008.00	0.00	10,723.00	18,285.00
PORTER ROAD	12,693.00	0.00	12,693.00	0.00
OLD BIXBY ROAD	18,321.00	0.00	18,321.00	0.00
SALEM ROAD	78,852.00	0.00	21,947.00	56,905.00
SKELLY/HASKELL	23,935.00	0.00	2,688.00	21,247.00
METHODIST CHURCH ROAD	2,621.00	0.00	2,621.00	0.00
HECTORVILLE ROAD	1,253,102.00	0.00	143,783.00	1,109,319.00
SUMMIT SOUTH ROAD	192,532.00	19,042.00	173,146.00	344.00
EUFULA DORMITORY '02	265,657.00	0.00	71,374.00	194,283.00
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD '03	6,494.00	0.00	2,233.00	4,261.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '03	10,138.00	0.00	10,138.00	0.00

CONTINUED ON B6

Muscogee (Creek) Nation quarterly financial statement

Quarter ending September 31, 2005 Prepared by the office of the controller

In accordance with National Council Act 8-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending September 31, 2005 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditure, and balance for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The receipts are dollar amounts received for the period ending September 31, 2005. The figures include, but are not limited to, federal dollars received on grants or contracts, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the second quarter ending September 31, 2005.

The budget figure represents the amounts approved in the comprehensive annual budget.

The encumbered amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the year.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

The balance figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of September 31, 2005.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 732-7930.



Nation loses an esteemed tribal elder



Creek renaissance man remembered



Creek athlete is an all around success story



Generation to generation: Creek language continues

OKMULGEE — Teaching is nothing new for Millie Colbert. She has been teaching the Muscogee (Creek) language for twenty-three years. Her teaching career began at Bacone College. Throughout the years, she has taught at communities, churches and OSU-Okmulgee (beginner and intermediate classes). She also enjoys teaching Creek Hymns to help keep the Creek language apart of our churches. The Lighthorse Police Officers have also benefited from her teaching. She has been able to teach them basic Creek language to assist our citizens.

Currently, Colbert works for the Mvskoke Language Program as the curriculum coordinator. As the curriculum coordinator, she works with Muscogee language speakers doing curriculum, teaching, helping with Head Start, Child Care immersion and whenever assistance is needed. The Mvskoke

Language Program began in July 2005. One of Colbert's many duties consist of working with the language



Pictured (l to r): front row, Minnie Proctor, Mary Frye, Sylvia Fay Baker, Mona 'Koko' Lowe and Dr. Pete Cosar, Human Development Director. Back row, Norma Marshall, Millie Colbert, Mitch Jack and Ahse Deere.

speakers at various schools with the Creek Nation boundaries. Language speakers teach students Pre-K through 6th grade basic level Creek. The students are given a pre-test before the class begins to see how much, if any Creek they know. Tests are given

throughout the year, with a final test to document their progress. Students learn words, numbers, colors, fruit, vegetables and animals (wild and domestic). Participating schools are Hanna, Dustin, Wetumka and Holdenville. When Millie first started her job, she was one of the language speakers at Dustin School for three weeks. Some of the language speakers are: Minnie Proctor, Dustin; Sylvia Baker, Hanna; Mary Frye, Wetumka; and Mitchell Jack and Ahse Deere, Holdenville.

Another curriculum activity is the Language Fair. There are puppet shows, singing and teaching at the Language Fair. Students from Pre-K through Seniors attend. The CHR Program also teaches the students Creek words for body parts. The Tobacco Prevention Program came to talk to the students at the Hanna Language Fair.

"The schools have really been supportive with the Language Fair," said

Colbert. Some of the schools Colbert has been to are Dustin, Hanna and Wetumka. Upcoming Language Fair participants include Thomas Public School on Jan. 20 and Reed School on Jan. 27. Both schools are located in Holdenville.

In the future, she will be creating a scavenger hunt for the Creek Language students in their classrooms. Colbert is already working on translating more children's songs into Creek. "The kids really enjoy singing songs in the Creek language," said Colbert.

Colbert is pleased with the various Creek Nation departments that are helping develop the curriculum by providing teaching materials.

Her love for teaching keeps her going and maybe she will be able to teach for another twenty-three years. Millie states, "The most rewarding aspect of my job, is knowing that our Creek people and non-Creek people are really proud to learn the language. It is always a joy to know that people have a desire to learn the Creek language."

The Clan System*

Like many other Southeastern tribes, the tribes in the Muscogee Confederacy had a dual system of political and social organization. Towns and clans were divided into two groups, one symbolized by the color white and the other by the color red. White towns and White clans were generally associated with the activities and responsibilities of peace, while Red towns and Red clans were associated with war-related matters.

The clan system of the Muscogee, like those of other eastern tribes, including the Iroquois, was matrilineal and exogamous. In a matrilineal system, newborn children became members of their mother's clan and Talwa. The Muscogee were also matrilineal, meaning that a new bridegroom lived with his wife's family. As an exogamous society, the Muscogee required individuals to marry outside their clan. Because of these practices, a family with several children would typically become related through marriage to several other clans, often those in neighboring talwas. This meant that many clans might be represented in a single talwa and since clan members were regarded as "family", this system promoted close ties and interrelationships throughout the nation.

The clan system provided the basic political and social structure of each talwa. Each clan within a talwa had specific duties and farming areas and often provided leaders for specific offices. Clans were responsible for the social behavior of their own members and, except in unusual cases, for punishing crimes and settling civil grievances. The oldest male member of a clan served as its teacher and counselor. It was his job to monitor behavior and determine and administer punishments. Unresolved disputes between two clans were referred to the council of the talwa, which represented all clans.

An offense against one member of a clan was considered an offense against all members, and it was the responsibility of all members to seek redress against the offender. Honor depended upon determining truth in a dis-

pute and making proper settlements for the wrongs committed by any of its members, and punishments were determined by the crime and by the character of the defendant. Stolen goods were repaid twofold; if a thief had poor standing in the community, clan members might deliver him or her to the victim for whipping. In the case of killing (no distinctions were made between an accidental killing or a murder), one of several alternatives existed. The killer, if well respected, might be adopted by the wronged clan to take the victim's place, or he or she might be ordered to perform certain services or deeds, such as providing food for the victim's family. If the killer was a person of ill repute, the members of his or her clan might consent to the death penalty, with the victim's clan carrying out the execution. Punishments were undertaken with two goals in mind: to mend the law that had been broken and as a cleansing process, to wash away the crime. Once the sentence had been carried out, the culprit was considered innocent of the crime.

Each talwa had two leaders, a civil chief and a war chief, further reflecting the duality of the town and clan system. The civil chief, or micco, received ambassadors, negotiated treaties, dispensed food from the public granaries, and established feast days to celebrate successful hunts. That is, in White towns the Red town members chose the micco from among the White clans' members. In Red towns, White clan members chose the micco from among the Red clans.

The micco ruled by persuasion, not command or coercion. A micco who failed to achieve harmony and consensus among members, and who brought divisiveness to talwa affairs, was relieved of the position.

A three-tiered system of advisors appointed by the micco assisted in the administration of public duties. The war chief, or tvstvnvke, was chosen by the micco on matters of war, organized warriors for battle, maintained public order, and arranged the important stickball

games played between Red and White Towns. The second men, hennaha, or public-work advisers, were responsible for constructing new dwellings, organizing work in the communal fields, and preparing the "black drink", an important, tealike beverage consumed at weekly talwa council meetings. One of the hennaha served as the micco's Speaker, or chief spokesman. Well versed in law, the Speaker was responsible for conveying the micco's decisions to the people. The "beloved old men", or este vavkive, were the third group of advisors. These elders had distinguished themselves throughout their lives and were highly valued for their wisdom and good advice.

The micco and his three groups of advisors formed the talwa's governing council. Besides overseeing the administration of each advisory group's specific duties, the council levied fines for infractions against the community, such as failing to participate in the Green Corn Ceremony or on not doing one's share in the public planting and harvesting. Working together, the three advisory groups and the micco formed a partici-

patory and thoroughly democratic body in which all people had the right to express their own views. Through discussion and compromise, the talwa leaders sought harmony and the reconciliation of differences among all members.

Harmony was so highly valued among the Muscogee that a special maintenance system was devised even when a major issue could not be settled to everyone's satisfaction. If a member or members of a talwa continued to disagree with the majority on a policy, they were free to move and establish their own community, with the support, not enmity, of those whose talwa were leaving. When a dissident group established a new town (also when a neighboring tribe joined the Muscogee Confederacy), an ember from one of the mother talwas was used to start the fire of the new settlement as a symbol of continuity and unity. When the Muscogee were removed to Indian Territory in the 1800's, they carefully took the embers and other symbols of their talwas with them.

*Information provided by Creek Council House Museum.

Cultural Events

23rd Annual Stompdance

DEWEY — The Title IX Indian Education of Bartlesville is hosting the 23rd Annual Operation Eagle Stompdance on Jan. 21 at the Dewey Fair Building (southside).

A dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. and the stompdance will start at 7 p.m.

The stompdance coordinator and emcee will be Troy Littleaxe.

For more information, call Lilly Tyner at (918) 337-0130.

NASA Stompdance

GLENPOOL — The Glenpool Native American Student Association (NASA) will be having a stompdance on Jan. 28th beginning at 7 p.m. until 12 a.m.

The stompdance will be held at the Glenpool Creek Indian Commu-

nity Building located at Highway 75 & 141st Street behind the Smoke Shop.

For more information, contact Kristy Kollington at (918) 322-3823 ext. 568.

Valentine's Stompdance

GLENPOOL — A Valentine's Day Stompdance will be held Feb. 11 at the Glenpool Indian Community Center beginning at 7 p.m. until 2 a.m.

The emcee will be B.J. Jackson. The stompdance is sponsored by Felix Gouge and family.

There will be cash door prizes, raffle items, 50/50 and concession stand available.

The center is located at 141st Street and Highway 75.

Nation Loses an Esteemed Tribal Elder

by: Suzie Joki

On Dec. 31, 2005 the tribe was deeply saddened by the loss of an esteemed tribal citizen and spokesman, Katie (Thomas) Smith. "Aunt Katie was an inspiration to all and a special friend to my wife, Gail and myself," says Principal Chief, A.D. Ellis.

Smith was born Jan. 11, 1912 in a log cabin on the Verdigris River in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Her parents are the late Mack and Sarah Thomas and she is a member of the Fuswa clan. Katie received her education in the Ward School House on the Verdigris bottom and went on to graduate from Chillicothe Indian Boarding school in 1933.

Katie married the love of her life, Walter Smith in 1935 and became a professional seamstress and baker. She loved to sew. Not only did she make her own clothes she continued to make her niece, Virginia Thomas' clothes. "Aunt Katie had just finished her New Year's suit comprised of a skirt, blouse and blazer the day before Christmas" states Thomas.

Katie also loved to cook. She was well known for her mouth watering dishes, home made yeast rolls and especially her candied sweet potatoes. She would bring them to all church dinners for James Harley, of Cedar Creek Church. Therefore getting its famous name among gatherings "Harley's Potatoes." "She loved to make people happy, always had a smile, a handshake and many times a song for everyone," says Thomas.

Aunt Katie still created a flower and vegetable garden, maintained her own home and could out dig people a fourth her age when digging wild onions. She was also a fisherman at heart and would rather be on the side of some bank or in a boat fishing than almost anywhere else. "She's been known to out-do the men in a friendly competition by casting her line exactly where she pointed," says Umy Youngblood.

Smith has sung with her bluegrass

band, "Umy and the Goodtimers" for over 47 years and most recently sang at Silver Dollar City where she has performed for over 26 years. Katie was inducted along with the Goodtimers into the bluegrass hall of fame the summer of 2002 in Missouri.

Katie in her recent years, found a new profession as a workshop presenter at both the national and Oklahoma Johnson-O'Malley conferences. She would speak about her education experience, sing in between her stories and end up speaking of the love of her Lord and telling

those educators to keep prayer in school. National JOM Board member, Jeri Brandon says Katie truly was a unique person. Her contribution to JOM workshops, from Oklahoma to the National Conferences, blessed all those that attended.

"She would tell people she was proud to be a Muscogee (Creek) Indian by race and a born again Christian by faith. She was never ashamed to stand up to testify and sing when called upon. Her love for the Lord showed through her like a light house beacon, always beaming and always leading the way for others to find His loving spirit. When Aunt Katie would pray for you, it was like she was holding

God's hand and connecting it to yours," says Wanda Harley.

Katie has inspired both young and old to "keep on keeping on" and never give in to the devil. Her favorite saying was "I would just open the door and kick the devil out". She would talk to Jesus just like He was standing right there. According to her He shared her meals and sat beside her throughout the day.

Katie was proud of being a Muscogee (Creek) Indian and was just as proud representing her tribe as "Senior Miss" Muscogee (Creek) Nation. When



Katie was elected Senior Miss she stated, "now I gotta hold up my end." She did according to the JOM program, she was one of the busiest Princess they've had. She took being Senior Miss very seriously and wore her crown and sash with pride. Wherever she was invited to go, she would bring her guitar and would many times end up preaching. Young people were drawn to her and would sit at her feet just listening to her childhood stories.

Her joy in life was being able to sing praises to the Lord and share His word with everyone she met. According to family and friends Katie had her special seat in every church. At Thomas church it was fourth pew on the left, at Springtown it was fourth pew on the right and at Cedar Creek and Broken Arrow it was third pew on the right. Whatever church she walked into, that's where the Lord wanted her to be and she worshiped him. It was not unusual for Aunt Katie to start off Sunday morning at Thomas Church,

spend the afternoon in services at Cedar Creek Baptist or Springtown Methodist and go back to Thomas Church or Broken Arrow Methodist Church for evening services.

At the age of 93, she was still out visiting the shut-ins and nursing homes. She was usually the one going into the nursing home to encourage elders that were younger than her to keep their spirits up. It was not unusual to see her cooking a special meal of traditional food to take to her relatives and friends in the Coweta Nursing home.

Katie would tell people that she had been able to see the world change from wagon days to rocket ships, from wood burning stoves to microwaves, and from chopping cotton by hand to modern farm equipment that is bigger than most people's house.

Sunday morning at Thomas Church Brother Ray Repologle would ask: "Sister Katie, are you here?" Yes, now and forever in our hearts until she greets us in Glory.

Katie was truly a blessing given to us from God and she blessed all of us throughout her 93 years here on this earth. "Her prayer in life was to see Thomas Community Church grow and become the fire of faith church that she saw in her dreams."

Mvskoke Christmas

Carol Singers

OKMULGEE — Singers sing in Christmas songs native language

During the holiday season the Mvskoke Christmas carol singers practiced singing at Okmulgee Nutrition Center (ONC).

They shared the songs at ONC and for those confined in the nursing homes. With the assistance of the activity directors at Highland Park Manor Charlene Drye and Sunny Robinson of Rebold Manor the Mvskoke residents heard the Christmas carols in their native language.



Standing L-R: Bertha Taylor, Lillian Thomas and Esther Gee
Sitting L-R: Martha Johnson, Esther Halloway and Pat Factor

A message from the Senior Service Manager

by: Jackson Barnett

Program Activities Tentatively Scheduled for the Upcoming Months

The first will be a trip to Cleveland, Tennessee the first weekend in February, 2006. Cleveland is located just northeast of Chattanooga. This will include a combination of sandhill crane watching event and recognition/dedication of a location where some five hundred Creek people were loaded onto ferries to begin their journey on the Tennessee River to Indian Territory. Some type of marker or plaque will be erected there. I have already been put on the program to speak to the visitors there in our Mvskoke language.

Another outing planned is to the Cahokia Mounds near St. Louis, Missouri. The early inhabitants there were mound builders as we Mvskoke people were.

The next trip to keep in mind is to Wichita, Kansas. We will tour the "Treasures of the World" museum. It is my understanding there are many things to see, including prehistoric relics to Egyptian mummies, civil war, to the modern age.

The fourth possible trip is to the yearly "Gathering of Nations" celebration in Albuquerque, New Mexico in the middle or latter part of April, 2006. If a person is interested in seeing other Indian tribal members, dancing, etc. this is the event to attend as there are wall-to-wall Indians there.

The first trip to Tennessee is the only one whose dates are confirmed so far. The days and times will be forthcoming in the near future. The other three outings have not been scheduled yet as to times and dates. They will be announced as the weeks and months draw near.

MVTO!

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program provides free tax help to people age 60 and older. Trained volunteers from non-profit organizations provide free tax counseling and basic income tax return preparation for senior citizens. Volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS. As part of the IRS-sponsored TCE Program, AARP offers the Tax-Aide counseling program at more than 9,000 sites nationwide during the filing season. Trained and certified AARP Tax-Aide volunteer counselors help people of low-to-middle income with special attention to those age 60 and older.

Items you need to bring to the VITA/TCE Sites to have your tax returns prepared

- Must bring photo identification
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents
- Birth Dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return
- Current year's tax package if you received one
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit
- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

For more information on TCE call 1-800-829-1040.
To locate the nearest AARP Tax-Aide site, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit AARP's Internet site.

Stirring the gifts by Bishop Robert Hayes

Our nation has witnessed unimaginable suffering and misery of the people who were caught in the path of hurricane Katrina. All around us we have seen the horrible sights of people who have lost everything. It is so difficult for us to understand how it would feel to wake up one morning and everything you owned was gone! The people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama have lost loved ones, their homes, their jobs and their dignity. There is really no way for us to really comprehend what has taken place.

The images of people standing in lines haunt us. Seeing families without food, water and the bare necessities of life is hard to take. To add to the pain, entire families were uprooted and separated, with many still not sure if their mothers, fathers, sisters or brothers are still alive.

The Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church lost the entire New Orleans District! Over eighty churches were damaged, and the same numbers of pastors were displaced. Can you imagine not having a church to go to or a congregation to shepherd? The Louisiana Conference has been turned upside down, trying to find housing, work, and salary/benefits for its ministers. The entire denomination is now engaged in reaching out to help all three states affected.

When you look at all that has happened, and you see firsthand the suffering and pain of this monumental disaster, one can't help but ask: "Where is God in all of this?" I can't tell you how many telephone calls I've had from people asking me why God would allow such a tragedy to take place. My answer to them is the same yesterday as it is today.

First of all, God doesn't pick and choose what will or will not happen to us. There is a natural order of things that take place in this universe, and hurricanes, tornados, floods, and a host of other calamities fall in that category. However, this is not to say that God doesn't respond when these events take place. God is where God has always been. God has not moved, nor, as the Psalmist says, "God does not slumber or sleep." We are children of a God who loves us and is compassionate, and even though we aren't immune from catastrophes, we are safe in the knowledge that God can bring something good out of tragedy.

edy.

I prefer to look at it as a door being closed. And over the years I have discovered that when one door is closed to us, God opens another door.

Out of this misfortune I have seen something that I have never witnessed before. I have seen people reach out to total strangers and help them to get back on their feet. Yes, there have been those who have taken advantage of the situation, but the large majority represents people who have helped in tremendous ways. And of that number, no group has given more assistance than the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference!

From the moment that evacuees were sent to Oklahoma, our conference was there, giving aid and support. At Camp Gruber a host of our pastors and members were present, helping displaced people to find loved ones, and providing housing and transportation and other vital needs. Our OIMC representatives worked tirelessly, and it has given me a new appreciation for the people of this conference.

When I came to Oklahoma, I knew I had to learn a lot about the customs and ways of Native Americans, however, what I have learned through this calamity has made an impression on me that I will never forget. It's as if God has opened a door of service, and OIMC has walked through it! You have reached out to total strangers, and your help has been felt from Oklahoma all the way to Alabama, where teams of volunteers recently returned from helping those beyond our state line. You, OIMC, have made me the proudest Bishop in the United Methodist Church, simply because of your compassion and love.

The Gospel of Matthew says that one day the King (God) will divide us as sheep and goats, and the righteous will say, "When did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or in prison?" And the King will answer, "When you did it to one of the least of these My children!"

Thank you OIMC for all you have done! Indeed, you have stirred the gift of God that is within you, and when one door was closed, you stepped right into the door of opportunity and service!

God bless you all.



Bishop Hayes

Pastor's Corner

Wesley Berry, Crosstown Church
Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Well another year has come and gone, and I hope your life is better for it. It never ceases to amaze me though, how often we find ourselves at this very place year after year, always looking forward for things to be different. The only thing that seems to be different is less hair, more weight. My question to you is, "Will this be another lost opportunity to change your life or is this the best it gets?" If nothing changes, I can prophesy to you what your life will be this time next year. EXACTLY WHAT IT IS RIGHT NOW! The only thing that brings changes is choices. There is an old proverbial saying, "When you're through changing, you're through." Are you through? It's your decision.

Let me share with you God's plan for your life. I don't care how your life began or what your life consists of at this very moment, listen to the psalmist David in Psalms 139:13-17, (New Living Translation) *You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me O God! They are innumerable!* You see, God never intended for your life to become anything other than an expression of praise to him! I realize that not every one of our lives has lived up to that standard of expectation, but before I'm through writing this article you'll understand the reason why and what it takes to change our lives.

Every aspect of our lives have been governed by choices we've made. I'll be the first to admit that I haven't always made the right choices, but the humbling truth is we have to live out and hopefully live through the choices we've made. Just like the story I heard, about a teenage girl who began to date an older teenage boy. The girl's parents discouraged their daughter from dating this young man because of his age and reputation, but she kept seeing him behind their backs anyway. During school one day the boy asked her to go with him to a party that weekend. The girl knowing her parents would disapprove, told them she was going to spend the night at a friend's house, but instead met him. At the party the young man became very intoxicated and sexually aggressive, the young girl upset, asked him to take her home. On the way home the young man was outraged with the young girl and drove recklessly exceeding the speed limit, as they topped a hill on the wrong side of the road, their vehicle, hit another car head on! In and out of consciousness, the young girl overheard the ambulance driver say, "That the driver and passenger of the other car had both died!" Once the ambulance arrived at the hospital, they rushed the young girl into the emergency room, and tried frantically to save her life, but to no avail. As she laid dying, she begged and pleaded with the nurse, to promise her, that she would tell her parents, she loved them and that she was so very sorry. The nurse not knowing what to do, finally told the young girl, that would be impossible for her to do, because it was her parents that was in the other car!

Just recently I preached a message at our church and asked the question, "Why did God place the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden?" God in his infinite wisdom and knowledge, had to know that Eve would be tempted and yet he allowed the temptation to remain. I don't know how many times over 24 years of studying the word of God, have I pondered over this scenario. Why would he allow this tree in the Garden of Eden and place it directly in the middle of the Garden? The scriptures don't tell us, how many days, months, years or millenniums, Adam and Eve were in the Garden. But, just for a moment of time, go back with me, to the Garden. It doesn't matter where the two traveled in the Garden, in some form or fashion they encountered the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It's very possible over their extended stay in the Garden, they may have walked by the tree thousands of times and yet never tempted to eat its fruit. On this one day, Eve had a choice to make, walk by the tree as she had many other times in the past or stop and allow herself to be tempted into making a bad decision. Well, we know the rest of the story. Her choices that particular day not only affect her life, and her husband's life but also every generation and individual since then. I know what you're thinking, you're thinking I still haven't answered the question. "Why did God allow the Tree in the Garden in the first place?" The answer is, God created mankind to be free moral agents capable of choosing for themselves, the direction their particular life takes. Freedom to choose is a very dangerous and the same time wonderful thing. It all depends on the choice. Though it's God's desire to prosper and bless our individual lives, he will not counteract our choices. Besides, without the Tree and the freedom of choice it represents, the decision to follow God is meaningless. His desire is for you to want to choose him and not to be forced to choose him or have no other option.

Let me end this article, this month by allowing you, the reader, an opportunity to make a choice for yourself. In Deuteronomy 30:19, *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I (GOD) have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:* You see my friend it is God's Will for your life to bless you, but he will not over turn your decisions. Let God be at the center of all your choices. Until next time BE BLESSED.....

Church seeks Pastor

HAYDENVILLE — Montesoma Indian Baptist Church is searching for a bi-vocational pastor. Montesoma is a small, rural, caring fellowship which is affiliated with the Muskogee, Seminole and Wichita Indian Baptist Association.

They are primarily Mvskokvke and although a Creek Pastor is preferred, all resumes are welcomed by the Pulpit Committee. Mail resumes to Pulpit Committee, P.O. Box 292, Okemah, Oklahoma, 74859 or call (918) 623-9126. The church is located 14 miles north of Okemah.

Church Hymnal Singing

TULSA — The National Indian Monument Institute (NIMI) will host a church hymnal singing on Jan. 31 at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center beginning at 7 p.m.

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BIRTHANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrew Dalton Ellis

JACKSON, Tenn. — Andrew Dalton Ellis was born Dec. 16. He weighed 8lbs and 10 ounces and 20 inches in length.

He is the son of Sandra K Ellis of Jackson. Maternal Grandmother Pat Ellis of Lexington, Tenn. and his Grandfather Principal Chief A.D. Ellis of Twin Hills Community. Great-Grandparents are the late Doolie and Nellie (Bruner) Ellis.

Andrew has one big brother Wesley Ellis (20 years old) of Jackson. Ellis is of the Turtle Clan and a descendant of the Locv Pokv Tribal Town.



Cate' (Red) Aquila (Eagle)

Escajeda-Noon

OKLAHOMA CITY — Cate' (Red) Aquila (Eagle) was born Nov. 18, at St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City. Cate weighed 7lbs and 15 ounces and was 21.5 inches long.

He is the son of Veronica Escajeda and Steven Noon of Oklahoma City.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gil Escajeda of El Paso, Texas. Paternal grandparents are Thelma "Jean" Noon of Wetumka and Robert O. Anderson of Gracemont.

Lil Cate' is a descendant of Thlophlocco Tribal Town and is a great-grandson to Alabama Quassarte Ceremonial Ground.



Cambren Mekhi Powell

TULSA — Cambren Mekhi Powell was born Oct. 15, at Tulsa Regional Hospital. He weighed 4 lbs and 10 ounces and 17.5 in length.

He is the son of Amayi Powell. Maternal great grandparents are Anita Sue Powell and Louis Gray.

Great grandparents are the late David L. Powell, and the late Vena Mae Randall and Willie C. Randall of Okmulgee.



Malakai Wayne Harjo

TULSA — Malakai Wayne Harjo was born Dec. 2, at Hillcrest Hospital.

He weighed 5 lbs and 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches in length.

He is the son of Brandee Beaver and Dustin "Chudd" Harjo.

His Maternal Grandparents are Charlene Deere of Oklahoma City and David Deere of Okmulgee.

His Paternal Grandparents are Angela Berryhill of Morris and Chris Harjo of Okmulgee. Great grandparents are Wanda Buckley of Oklahoma City and the late Sam Beaver and Christine Berryhill of Morris and Lenday Berryhill of Okmulgee.



BIRTHDAYS

A.D. Ellis

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis celebrated his birthday with Creek Nation employees and acquaintances on Dec. 13.

Ellis is the son of Doolie and Nellis Bruner Ellis of the Twin Hills community.

He is the grandson of Adaline and Rev. Billie Bruner.

Chief Ellis currently resides in the Twin Hill community with his wife Gail (Billings) Ellis and has four daughters and three sons whom reside throughout the United States.

Ellis belongs to the Turtle clan, his tribal town is Locv poka and attends Concharty Indian Methodist Church.



Kiya Benjamin Haney-Powell

OKMULGEE — Kiya celebrated his first birthday on Dec. 10. A party was held at the Morris Elementary cafeteria where his theme was Winnie the Pooh. He celebrated with many friends.

Kiya is the son of Jamie H. Haney and Cameron Powell of Okmulgee.

His grandparents are Willie, Sr. and Kathy of Morris and Jerry and Karen Powell of Henryetta. He is the great grandson of Christine Harjo and Mary Kelley.



Jaycie Roberts

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jaycie celebrated her 10th birthday with a party at Incredible Pizza in Oklahoma City with family and friends.

She is the daughter of Jennifer Frye and Jay Roberts.

Her maternal grandparents are Johnny Sr. and Marion Frye of Del City. Paternal grandmother is Evelyn Greenwood-Battiest of Coalgate, maternal great-

grandparents are the late James and Lucille Smith Bunny and the late Harbie Frye, Sr. and Hepsey Walker Frye, paternal great-grandparents are Geraldine Greenwood of Ada and the late Virgil Greenwood.

Jaycie is the new Little Miss Oklahoma City Muscogee Association Princess for 2006. She attends East Side Elementary in Midwest City and is from the Bird Clan.



Alissa Callie Taylor

TULSA — Alissa celebrated her 10th birthday with a party at the movies and Mazzio's Pizza in Tulsa with family and friends.

She is the daughter of Stefanie and Lucas Taylor.

Her maternal grandparents are the late Louise Rose Pulliam and Richard Wayne Pulliam of Dewar. Paternal grandparents are Sally and the late Walter Taylor Sr.

Alissa is the currently active in soft ball, basketball and bible quizzing. She is in the fourth grade and attends Henryetta Public Schools.



MUSCOGEE PEOPLE

Mariah Lee

TULSA — Four years ago, Mariah Lee, a 58 year old Native American Creek grandmother heard about a therapy which could help save diabetic feet and set about trying to do something about it. Since she is a type 2 diabetic herself, she contacted the manufacturer of the machine to purchase a machine. When the manufacturer heard that she was a Native American he offered her the Oklahoma distributorship. While selling the machines to Oklahoma tribes she visited a clinic of the Osage tribes. That clinic was using her Neurocare machine therapy very successfully and inspired her to try to open a clinic similar to theirs.

Thanks to T.K. Wolf who offered her office space, this clinic is now open, with a wonderful team of four and is called the New Tradition Clinic. It is located at 2121 So. 125th East Ave. Suite 103, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Kerry S. Girty

BALDWIN CITY, Kan. — Kerry S. Girty recently graduated with her Masters in Business Administration from Baker University at Baldwin City.

Kerry currently works at Haskell University (Lawrence, Kan.) as a Telecommunications Specialist and Assistant Volleyball Coach.

Girty is the Daughter of Francis (Scott) and Andrew Girty of Lawrence, Kan. Grand daughter of the late Susie (Looney) and Ellis Scott.

Girty would like to express her sincere gratitude to the Muscogee Creek Nation Higher Education office for their assistance in helping her achieve higher education through the programs available at the Nation. Thlophlocco Tribal Town, the Lawrence Indian United Methodist church and her family for their love, support and help along the way.



Alyssa Janell Minor (Descendent of Thomas Ellis Moore)

OKEMAH — Alyssa Janell Minor has been selected to participate in the 2006 Miss Oklahoma USA/Teen USA Pageant that will be held Dec. 16-18 in Edmond. She will compete as Miss Okfuskee County Teen USA in swimsuit, evening gown and interview competitions. The pageant has two age divisions. Winners will go on to represent Oklahoma in the 2006 Miss USA and Miss Teen USA Pageant.

Miss USA will go on to compete in the Miss Universe Pageant. All pageants will be televised on NBC.

Alyssa is of Creek heritage and the daughter of Tom and Janell Minor. She is the granddaughter of Jim and Judy Waddel of Wetumka, Bill and Jan Minor of California and Sally and Richard Weilacker of California and the great granddaughter of Pauline Kidwell and the late Kenneth Ennis of Bakersfield, California. She is the great-great granddaughter of the late Luther Tatum of Okemah and the late Maggie Moore Tatum of California. She is the great-great-great granddaughter of the late Thomas Ellis Moore and the late Rosie Mae Beshears Moore of Rural Eufaula.

A junior at Okemah High School, Alyssa has lettered in cheerleading, softball, basketball and FFA. She attends Wes Watkins Technology Center (WWTC), where she is preparing to become a registered nurse. She is and has been on the principal's and superintendent's Honor rolls and has been selected as WWTC student of the month.

Alyssa is a member of the Abundant Life Church in Henryetta and is currently employed at the Everlasting Life Boxing Gym in Wetumka. She has been a volunteer for the Woody Guthrie Days in Okemah and a blood drive. Her sponsors include Apollo Oil Tool, Seminole; Duncan Tank Service, Okemah; Circle C Oilfield Supply, Wetumka; Okemah Oil Company, Okemah; Benson True Value and Grape Ranch. The Miss USA pageant system stresses good morals, physical fitness, communication skills, social awareness and community involvement.



Creek renaissance man remembered

"Didn't have no relief welfare then. Didn't had public bureau departments. Only relief fella git was sweat an' work little harder."

By GERALD WOFFORD

MNN Staff Writer

OKMULGEE — As a new year embraces us, it has always been traditional thinking to look back at where we came from. Often, if time allows, it is good to look back even further. In the late 1930's and early 40's, as the world was embracing a world war, Creek attorney and writer Thomas Moore was giving Creek citizens, Oklahoma, and the world a little something to smile and laugh about in troubled times.

Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr. an English Professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock has researched literature archives and found Moore's "Sour Sofkee" series. Moore wrote the humorous prose for the *Tulsa Daily World* between the years of 1937 to 1941. In his own words, Littlefield shares what Moore's creation of a fictional Creek character named 'Chinnubbie' and his friends like Wooley Fixico, and Samochee meant to a changing world.

Sour Sofkee appeared at a time when dialect humor had fallen out of fashion with academic scholars, who were becoming increasingly concerned about the correctness of their political stands. Thus Moore's little volume went practically unnoticed by scholars, except for a few who were dedicated to study of tribal literatures. The book had limited circulation, primarily in stores and gift shops in Moore's home region.

Thomas Moore, however, had little concern about what scholars thought. His concern was with twentieth-century world through which Muscogee people moved from the Great Depression to the Space Age. The reader is struck by the consistency of the narrative voice and of vision projected through Moore's cannon. It is strictly a Muscogee voice, uninfluenced by writers of other tribes. When asked about dialect humorists who followed him, such as Dan Madrano (Caddo) and Joe Shunatona (Ojibwa), he said that he had no knowledge of their work. As for influences, he claimed that his father's bent for storytelling had been a major inspiration for his work. Posey was also an influence. Craig Womack, the only scholar to place Moore in the context of Muscogee literature, assumes that Chinnubbie is derived but argues that both he and *Fus Fixico* derive from a common heritage of oral tradition and storytelling.

Moore clearly experimented. About his column he said, "I wrote it as the narration of a Creek named Tahbahleechee who was talking about football." He added, "Tahbahleechee is a Creek word, or expression, meaning 'across the river or over the river.' I knew the Tahbahleechee family have known them all of my life." However, he soon gave Tahbahleechee's voice to Chinnubbie. Moore knew Posey's work and in his elder years considered Posey his favorite tribal writer, having committed to memory large quantities of his verse, which he could quote spontaneously and enthusiastically. He said, "I considered using the name Chinnubbie Harjo, but in so much as Chinnubbie Harjo was a fictitious character of Alex Posey who wrote that Chinnubbie Harjo was the evil genius of the Creek Indians, I decided to use only the name Chinnubbie. Insofar as I know, Chinnubbie is a name just like Charles, Carl, or Chester."

Although Thomas Moore's work is known to few readers, it is signifi-

cant in twentieth-century Muscogee literature. In volume, he surpassed Posey in the production of dialect humor, publishing twice as many pieces as appeared in the *Fus Fixico* series. Spanning more than forty years, his work carried forward the literary art of dialect humor based in Muscogee oral tradition and storytelling. Thus it stands as a vital link between Muscogee literature of Posey's day and that of the late twentieth century. Moore considers the voice through which it is delivered, however, a voice from the past. "Most of the old Indians who spoke English like SOUR SOFKEE was written, are gone. In fact, most of the younger

Creeks speak fluent English." But change is what "Sour

"Thomas Moore however, had little concern about what scholars thought. His concern was with twentieth century world through which Muscogee people moved from the Great Depression to the Space Age"

Sofkee" is about.

Through the social criticism it offers, Moore's work stands as testimony to Muscogee good humor in the face of social change and to the usefulness of laughter in meeting the challenges it presents. It is perhaps fitting that he concludes his little volume with "A Fullblood Stalks Old Age," a poem about creeping time and approaching death, and a poem that, by the way, reaffirms the value of laughter. In it, the full blood poet's voice subverts the common Western idea that time is the stalker and the individual is the victim. Here, old age thus time-is the victim. Although he has rheumatism, he can no longer walk far, and he has a wrinkled face and a "whole lot" of grandchildren, the old fully blood says, "Anyhow, I make big laugh like young fella do. That's how come old man fella young, act young too."

Thomas Moore was born on Oct. 1, 1911 and died Dec. 11, 2005. He was born on his Father's allotment south of Morris, Oklahoma. Moore was educated in the Morris Public School system, but also attended Chillicothe Indian School. Later Moore graduated from Bacone College, William Jewell College, and the

University of Oklahoma College of Law. Moore practiced law for over a half a century at the law offices of Moore & Moore. At the age of ninety-four, Moore was the eldest statesman of Muscogee literature.

As a tribute to the recognition of a Creek Renaissance man and his love for



his culture, the following is an excerpt from the "Sour Sofkee" newspaper series that appeared in the Sunday editions. "Chinnubbie often presents his version of the present-day question 'Is this a great country or WHAT?' to which

the answer is "WHAT." Chambers of Commerce, he says, propagandize the public, touting development and the great "progress" that their cities have made in such short time: "Wild country what use' to be, he's everything civilize now' now." But Chinnubbie's vision of America is different: "Automobile, telephone, littlehouse-bathroom inside, radio and all that kind, everybody got it now. Town he's grow from little one post office to big city. Outlaws kille' off an' put in jail rest of it."

Wild deer, buffalo, prairie chicken, wild turkey-all that kind-he's kille' off too 'cause have to make room for civilize an' new develop it." Town expansion, railroad construction, and road building eliminate farm land. This transformation of the landscape gives Chinnubbie moment to pause: Great country we live right now all right. He's reverse gear goin' wrong way look like though. You ought to ask old time fella-White man, Indian, anybody-what he's think about it. He say every time, 'Yeh, good country we got now, but I like to see back like use' to be long time ago, me." Samochee also sees the flaws in capitalist-based "progress" and their implications for the next generation of Muscogees. "Samochee say modern people don't know nothin' much. Ain't got no good business heads. "Specially younger generations." A good example is his son, who is in his late twenties. The son is always broke, doling out his paycheck in monthly installment payments. But, says Chinnubbie, "When ol' man Samochee bawl-it-out his boy 'bout too much spent money all time an' too much 'stallment bills, boy he just smiles an' say: 'That's good new twenty-century 'merican way. Broke all time; owe ever 'body all time; don't worry 'bout nothin' all time! Don't worry 'bout payin' 'stallment bills; let other fella worry 'bout whether he gonna git it on time, ever 'time, ever 'DIME!' People are victimized by high-pressure sales pitches from the

likes of automobile salesman. "Even if he know fella aint got no money to buy car with," Chinnubbie says "jus' try sell it to you anyhow...on small month payments plan let you pay it out nex' four-five years after car done wore out." Chinnubbie offered an alternative sales plan that sounds suspiciously like today's bulk packaging in discount stores: "1941 automobile company ought to use 1920 strategy. Make 'em all sports model, paint 'em all yellow, then sell in bunches like banana! Consumerism makes the people dissatisfied with what they have. "If he got somethings all time, he ever-time want somethings else. He don't like it what kind he's got; he want same kind what somebody else got. Sometime when he got best kind, he aint got 'nough sense to know it, an' ever-time he want to trade for what somebody else got. Lotta time what somebody else got is more worse than what he already got. But you can't tell him that, nobody, he won't believe it what you tell him 'bout that kind'. That's how come human people is funny animals. "Sour Sofkee" also analyzes the growing role of bureaucracies in modern American life. For example, society requires a new license for everything each year: "Fish-ketch license, automobile license, groc'ie store license, gasoline license, barbershop license, cigarettes license, beer license-fella even have to get new dog license! License he get more worse all time. Pretty soon now first thing we know ever 'body have to git new marriage license ever 'year jus' like ever 'thing else; even if you do keep same wife all time!" By the late 1930s, the country was emerging from the depression, and Chinnubbie believed that relief programs made people lazy and unwilling to work. "If lotta people would make resolution to do little less eat an' little more work," he wrote, "then tax he won't be so high on ever 'things. Uncle Sam won't have to sweat so much to feed lazy people with WPA job, and ol' man Public won't have to grunt so hard pay somebody else debt." What this country need," Chinnubbie wrote, "is old time pioneer ambition days like wild turkey days, when man had to work or starve it. Didn't had no relief welfare then. Didn't had no bureau public departments. Only relief fella git was sweat an' work little harder."

Bureau restrictions made public spectacles of some oil-rich Muscogees like Katie Fixico and Jackson Barnett. Pursued by the press who invaded their privacy, judged "crazy" by the public because the bureaucracy had labeled them "incompetent," besieged by grafters, and married for their money, they were often put on public display. In his verse on Katie's death, Chinnubbie tells the other side of her story: how she gave children gifts at Christmas, how she helped orphans, and how Cussetah community mourned her. Chinnubbie concludes his lament this way:

Use to somebody after all time,

Try to get his money-ever' dime!

Lawyers look for Katie ever' day,

Want to frame it up for lotta pay;

Now grafters have to look some where else instead,

Cause Katie Fixico he's dead!

Report

continued from A-8

EUFAULA DORM '03	717,365.00	0.00	540,482.00	176,883.00
OAKDALE SCHOOL BUILDING	0.00	0.00	(8.00)	8.00
CALVIN NORTH ROAD	1,453,458.00	800,131.00	136,375.00	516,952.00
STIDHAM ROAD	1,194.00	0.00	1,194.00	0.00
ARBKA ROAD	1,168,143.00	360,770.00	799,692.00	7,681.00
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD '04	12,412.00	0.00	11,758.00	654.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '04	447,081.00	0.00	389,637.00	57,444.00
EUFAULA DORMITORY '04	1,438,377.00	400.00	701,733.00	736,244.00
TITLE PLANT	25,474.00	0.00	23,798.00	1,676.00
AID TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENT	25,000.00	0.00	24,834.00	166.00
BIA BUILDING	44,865.00	0.00	44,865.00	0.00
JOHNSON O'MALLEY '05	904,402.00	3,068.00	433,593.00	467,741.00
EUFAULA DORMITORY '05	710,700.00	0.00	0.00	710,700.00
FORESTRY PROJECT	18,370.00	18,210.00	0.00	160.00
FACILITIES OPERATIONS MAINT	33,190.00	0.00	30,176.00	3,014.00
OLD DENTAL BUILDING PROJECT	20,573.00	0.00	0.00	20,573.00
KELLYVILLE PROJECT	2,657,238.00	157,599.00	968,325.00	1,531,314.00
EUFAULA DORM '99	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
MONTEZUMA PROJECT	39,304.00	0.00	35,193.00	4,111.00
TOTAL DEPT OF INTERIOR:	26,623,722.00	1,490,000.00	9,477,015.00	15,656,707.00
DEPT OF JUSTICE:				
STOP VIOLENCE '05	152,076.00	0.00	72,354.00	79,722.00
COPS	118,058.00	0.00	117,765.00	293.00
TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM	260,000.00	0.00	57,394.00	202,606.00
TOTAL DEPT OF JUSTICE:	530,134.00	0.00	247,513.00	282,621.00
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:				
GAP	188,225.00	0.00	82,273.00	105,952.00
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL	60,000.00	0.00	20,024.00	39,976.00
TOTAL EPA:	248,225.00	0.00	102,297.00	145,928.00
CAPITAL PROJECT:				
HEAD START BUILDING	1,012,512.00	14,471.00	42,841.00	955,200.00
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT:	1,012,512.00	0.00	0.00	1,012,512.00
ENTERPRISE FUND:				
MUSCOGEE OFFICE BLDG	196,800.00	0.00	582,985.00	(386,185.00)
MUSCOGEE OFFICE BLDG RESERVE	9,200.00	0.00	0.00	9,200.00
FOUNTAINHEAD	701,986.00	15.00	535,189.00	166,782.00
COWETA CLINIC	16,869,467.00	10,530,665.00	208,795.00	6,130,007.00
IHS OFFICE BUILDING	24,461.00	0.00	19,902.00	4,559.00
INDUSTRIAL PARK	725,804.00	545,714.00	89,500.00	90,590.00
ROAD EQUIPMENT POOL	344,308.00	0.00	203,238.00	141,070.00
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND:	75,488,104.00	44,305,576.00	6,558,436.00	24,624,092.00
INTERNAL SERVICE FUND:				
ROAD FORCE ACCOUNT	812,324.00	6,700.00	510,361.00	295,263.00
NAHASDA FORCE ACCOUNT	738,428.00	0.00	526,210.00	212,218.00
NAHASDA MAINTENANCE	185,142.00	0.00	70,455.00	114,687.00
TRIBAL- REAL PROP & FAC.	1,733,105.00	5,378.00	1,366,346.00	361,381.00
TRIBAL- PROPERTY & SUPPLY	113,348.00	0.00	98,315.00	15,033.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	1,911,588.00	92,976.00	660,234.00	1,158,378.00
SELF-INSURED HLTH FUND	0.00	0.00	4,165,938.00	(4,165,938.00)
TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE FUND:	5,493,935.00	105,054.00	7,397,859.00	(2,008,978.00)
TOTALS	202,075,457.00	54,497,059.00	75,321,199.00	72,181,524.00

Council

continued from A-3

Dec. 27, Emergency session

Absent were: **Duke Harjo**, Creek District; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee District; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptvce District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; and **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa District; representative **Fields** arrived; Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptvce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

- approved (20-0-0) NCR 05-006, supports negotiations begin in earnest on a government to government relationship to reach and agreement with the State of Oklahoma that again acknowledges the sovereignty of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation – sponsor: **George Tiger**;

- approved (19-0-1) NCA 05-296, authorizing a special appropriation to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation election board to conduct a special election for the proposed constitutional amendments – sponsor: **Sue Johnson**;

abstain were: **Ron Cleghorn**, Tulsa District;

- approved as amended (18-2-0) NCA 05-297, amending MCNCA Title 30, §4-101 entitled "National Council compensation classification structure and salary schedule" as amended by NCA 05-271 to increase the compensation of the National Council – sponsor:

Sandra Parish;

voting no were: **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District and **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh District;

motion made to go into executive session;

motion made to reconsider representative **David Nichols** was excused;

representatives: **Sandra Parish**, Muscogee District; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee District; **Sandra Golden**, Okfuskee District; **Billy Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptvce District all left the meeting;

- killed on the floor (14-0-0) NCA 05-297,

Dec. 29, Emergency session

Representatives excused are: **Larry Bible**, **Robert Hufft**, **David Nichols**, **Sandra Parish** and **Richard Berryhill**. Representative **Ron Cleghorn** will be late.

Absent were: **Sandra Parish**, Muscogee District; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee District; **Robert Jones**, Okmulgee District; **Keeper Johnson**, Okmulgee District; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; **Cherrah Ridge Quiett**, Tulsa District; **Ron Cleghorn**, Tulsa District; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa District; and **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner District;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptvce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

representative **Cleghorn** arrived during committee as a whole;

representative **Parish** arrived before the rise & report;

- approved as amended (17-0-0) NCA

05-298, authorizing a special appropriation to the City of Holdenville for the purchase of a wild land brush pump unit – sponsor: **Shirlene Ade**; co-sponsor(s): **Thomas Yahola**, **Rita Williams**, **Roger Barnett**, **Lola Fields** (\$60,000.00);

- approved as amended (17-0-0) NCA 05-299, authorizing a supplemental appropriation to the natural disaster program for fiscal

year 2006 – sponsor: **Roger Barnett** (\$75,000.00)

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EDMOND BARNETT JR.

DUSTIN — Funeral services for Edmond Barnett were held on Nov. 30 at Artussee Indian Baptist Church with Rev. Allison Phillips officiating.

Mr. Barnett was born on Feb. 2, 1922 to Edmond and Mandy (Simmons) Barnett.

He was a baptized member of Hillabee Indian Baptist Church for several years, and became an ordained deacon. He later transferred his membership to Dustin First Baptist Church. Edmond enlisted into the United States Army Nov. 19, 1942 and served with the 10th Armored Division, 3rd Army with General Patton, did his tour of duty during the Battle of the Bulge. During his service, he received the EAME Theatre Ribbon, three Bronze Service Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theatre Ribbon, and the World War II Victory Ribbon. He was very proud of being a World War II Veteran, and he was honorably discharged Dec. 6, 1945.

Edmond was preceded in death by: his wife, Ida (Givens) Barnett; his parents; one brother, Austin; and three children, Woodrow, Paul, and Elizabeth. Survivors include: four children, Edmond Barnett III of Lamar, David L. Barnett of Ada, Margaret Robinson and Amanda Barnett, both of Okemah; one sister, Maxine White of Deere's Chapel; ten grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; and a host of many relatives and friends.

Interment was at Hillabee Cemetery.



Barnett

son, Jerry Byrd, and Malcolm Tiger of-ficiating.

Willie was born Dec. 30, 1909 to George and Katie (McCosar) Gooden. He worked as a carpenter for many years, and at Tinker Field during World War II. He began preaching the ministry in the early 1950's and had preached for over 50 years. Reverend Gooden served as a circuit preacher over numerous churches in the Northeast District of the Oklahoma Indian Methodist Conference. He enjoyed fishing, reading, singing gospel hymns, creek songs and telling jokes.

He was preceded in death by: daughter, Joyceann Lefthand; sisters, Mary Harjo and Annie Gooden of the home and brother, Dan Gooden.

Willie is survived by: his wife, Mary Gooden of the home; son, Bennie Gooden of Dewar; four stepchildren, Angela Kihaga of Norman, George Taylor of Oklahoma City, Robert Taylor of Washington D.C. and J.D. Colbert of Oklahoma City; sister, Janet Jones of Oklahoma City; brother, Abraham Gooden of Calvin; six grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

Interment was at McCosar Cemetery.

JOHN ALLEN HANEY

SEMINOLE — Funeral services for John A. Haney were held Dec. 20 at Hitchitee Indian Methodist Church with Revs.

Mike Harjo, Abe Jackson and Senator Enoch Kelly Haney officiating. John was born March 26, 1983 to Willie Frank Sr. and Ellen (Dunn) Haney.

He was preceded in death by: his grandparents, Wesley & Joan Dunn and Woodrow & Hattie Haney; one aunt, Nona Haney; and one uncle, Wesley Dunn, Jr.

Survivors include: Willie F. Sr. & Ellen (Kathy) Haney; four siblings, William S. Haney of Morris, Willie F. Haney, Jr. of Glenpool, Michael L. Haney of the home and Jamie N. Haney of Okmulgee; two nephews and two nieces; and a host of other relatives and friends.

MILFORD E. "BEDIXIE" KING

STILLWATER — Funeral services for Milford King were held Jan. 12 at the First Baptist Church with Rev. Pat Lewis officiating.

Milford was born May 2, 1934 to James and Mamie (Fife) King. He was a member of the First Baptist Church. While employed with Williams Manufacturing Company, he began playing and coaching softball. Milford sponsored and played with the Indian Nations Manufacturing softball team and was inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame in 1994. He was actively involved in youth recreation with the Stillwater Parks and Recreation Department, coaching Little League baseball, football and basketball for ten years. He worked for OSU Married Student Housing, a position he held for 22 years and retired from OSU in 1993. After retirement he enjoyed spending



Haney



King

time with his family, especially with his grandchildren.

Mr. King was preceded in death by: his parents; and two brothers, Dan and James King.

Survivors include: his wife Nora (Taylor) King of the home; two children, Michael Eugene King of Berthoud, Colorado, and Gwenette Morrow of Stillwater; three siblings, John D. King of Newkirk, Ellen Willis of Granite, and Evelyn Brodgon of Ramona; and two grandchildren.

Interment was held at Fairlawn Cemetery.

JOE LEE SKEETER

HECTORVILLE — Funeral services for Joe Skeeter were held Nov. 15 at Morning Star Evangelistic Center with Rev. Lance Crawford officiating.

Joe was born Oct. 2, 1944 to Jimmie and Sadie (Green) Skeeter. He was an accountant and tax preparer, lived in Hectorville most of his life, and was a member of Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground.

Survivors include: four children, Jacque Hill of Glenpool, Kathy Skeeter of Tulsa, Stephanie Back of Broken Arrow and John Skeeter of Pahrump, Nevada; one brother, Andrew Skeeter of Tulsa; six grandchildren; as well as other loved ones who will greatly miss him.

Interment was held at the Bear Family Cemetery.

KATIE SMITH

COWETA — Funeral services for Katie Smith were held Jan. 5 at Thomas Community Church with Rev. Bernadine Dowdy officiating.

Katie was born January 11, 1912 to Mack and Sarah Thomas and she was of the Fuswa clan.

She was preceded in death by:

her parents; her husband, Walter Smith; four

siblings, Nora Nelson, Johnson B. Thomas, Samuel S. Thomas, and Billy S. Thomas.

She is survived by: us all.

Interment was at the Spavinaw Cemetery.



Smith

BILLY RAY WILLIAMS

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Billy Williams were held Jan. 6 at Dewar First Baptist Church officiated by Revs. Jack Vance and Don Walker.

Mr. Williams was born Sept. 12, 1937 to Irvin and Alice Williams. He owned and operated Williams Auto Repair in Henryetta. Billy served in the U.S. Army, was a member of the Church of Christ, the Masonic Lodge, Shriners, the AATRC Roping Association, and served as President & Chairman of the Board of the Credit Association of Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; and one brother, Bobby Williams.

Survivors include: two children, Marty Williams of Henryetta and Pam Sifuentes of Bixby; four siblings, Barton Williams of Henryetta, Jewell of Hanna, Clemma Luellen of Henryetta, and Carolyn Hammonree of Eufaula; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Interment was held at the Williams Family Cemetery.

Letters

continued from page 2

A special Thank You goes to Barbara Gillespie for her help. I also appreciate all the donations provided by the surrounding Indian Churches. Again, Thank You!

Suzie Smith, Coweta

Family expresses appreciation

The Haney family would like to say "Thank You Everyone" for all your love and support during this difficult time following the passing of our son, brother, uncle, and friend, John A. Haney. We would like to give special Thanks to Second Chief Berryhill; our Uncle

Creek Citizen Express Concerns

Editor:

Creek citizens must urge the implementation of a higher threshold before a bill is passed that directly benefits members of the National Council Representatives. As it now stands, a minority of the whole, who are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion or interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community can dictate to the majority and thereby upset the principle of government by the people.

It is this issue - the will of the majority being disregarded due to the fervor of a few - that provides the strongest reason to increase the threshold for adding amendments that secures the principle of representational democracy.

Clearly, serving the needs of the Creek citizens according to changes in the structure of government must be allowed when necessary, but it is imperative that they be based on a broad consensus of the governed. It should include provisions to protect the rights of its citizens, direct its government in the procedure of its duties and assign limited power. When they are not, an intense minority can tyrannize majority rights.

Creek citizens cannot allow the Creek Council to unilaterally give themselves a pay raised based simple on crude opinion they deserve it. Decisions of the Creek Council for a pay raise, or on any issue, should not be based on feelings but on accredited evidence that their actions represent majority agreement.

Jacob Narcomey, Okmulgee

Citizen voices opinion

Editor:

This letter to you is to let you know what the Mvskoke Citizens expect from you. We voted you into the National Council to support our Chief and your community.

The previous members voted themselves a raise without going to the communities and letting the members make that decision. Most of the Council members did not attend the Community meetings. Each Community has 12 meetings a year and you should be obligated to attend each one and when you do not attend you are not representing your community and you should be replaced by another member of your community. The raising of the Salary was not on the Eufaula Community meeting. You should be required to write bills for your communities and not for yourself. And when a bill is being voted on please do not leave your seat so you don't vote on a bill that you do not like. We want you to represent us on each bill to be voted on. Jumping up and leaving your seats is not what we want from a council member.

Another issue is if a council member is a member of another Federal tribe can that person set on the council?

Along with other citizens think the council is too large and we want a election this year to reduce that number along with bills to make the council more accountable to the communities.

I welcome each one of you and I look forward to a new beginning in supporting our Chief A.D. Ellis.

Esther Marie Grona, Okmulgee

HOT CORNER

by
JASON SALSAMAN

2006 is just a couple weeks old and already there have been fireworks set off in the sports world.

I don't recall in my short life ever seeing a superhuman performance as the one Texas quarterback Vince Young put on the Longhorns' historic Rose Bowl victory over juggernaut USC. Young's breakdown of the Trojan defense was at times breathtaking, and you cannot help but simply tip your cap to the guy and admit that what you have just seen is the definition of greatness. They have endured their share of misery over the last few years, so hats off to Mack Brown and company for getting the monkey off their backs and for making doubters, such as myself, look foolish for picking USC.

But, as the old saying goes, "two out of three ain't bad," and I have to admit that I am a little proud of my other two bowl picks in last month's paper. It was great to see the Tulsa Golden Hurricane defeat the Fresno State Bulldogs in the Liberty Bowl and put an emphatic punctuation on one of the best seasons ever in the history of the program. Now that the season is over and the smoke has had time to clear, it will be interesting to see if Tulsa can hang on to head coach and turnaround architect Steve Kragthorpe. Kragthorpe's stock rises higher with each Tulsa victory and in my opinion will lead to him being more and more pursued by the country's top-tier programs in the near future.

And how could I forget about the Holiday Bowl? The Oklahoma Sooners' defense played stingy all night long, reminding folks that Bob Stoops' squads can still swarm to the ball and make offensive yardage as scarce as rain in Oklahoma right now! In the end, the Sooners made just enough offensive plays and got a timely interception from ball magnet Clint Ingram, to hold off the #6 ranked Oregon Ducks. Now the Sooners will need sunglasses when looking to the future because it figures to be extremely bright. They are bringing back Holiday Bowl Offensive MVP Rhett Bomar and next year's Heisman Trophy favorite Adrian Peterson as well as a talented group of young receivers who came of age and a solid returning defense. Couple those factors with Vince Young's early departure from Texas to the NFL Draft, and it's easy to see why the Sooners will be favorites to bring back the Big XII Title to Norman in 2006.

Excitement is at a fever pitch in the NFL as the playoffs have gotten underway. The next few weeks will unfold the script as time will tell what two teams will meet on Detroit's Ford Field to decide the Super Bowl in early February.

And we can't forget about basketball because March is just around the corner. Mark your calendars early for the 4 Love of the Game's 3rd Annual All-Indian March Madness Tournament. The tournament, held this year at Henryetta, will offer an entire weekend of fun and competition for teams that will be traveling from all over the country to come and showcase their talents. Keep sending information on our great Creek athletes. Happy New Year everyone!

Creek athlete is an all-around success story

By Jason Salsman
MNN Sports Reporter

MANNFORD — Being an 11th grade high school student can be stressful at times. Just don't tell that to Andrea Caywood.

The Mannford High School junior doesn't believe in keeping a light schedule as she is involved in varsity soccer, cross country, basketball and track. That looks like quite a load if you just did that in one year, but Andrea has lettered in each of those sports since her 9th grade year.

But Caywood does not just excel on the playing field. She also

dent. She also maintains a 3.75 grade point average which is good enough to put her near the top of her class. In

girl's soccer coach at Mannford described her as an example. "She strives hard each and every day to achieve success," said Pacheco.

"She is a role model for other players on the team, her hard work and dedication on the field and in the classroom has set standards for other players to follow."

With her athletic abilities and good academics, Andrea has her sights set on college and possibly playing sports at the collegiate level. Whatever she decides to do, it is



Andrea Caywood poses with the awards she has accumulated

"She is a role model for other players on the team, her hard work and dedication on the field and in the classroom has set standards for other players to follow."

realizes that the work she does in the classroom is just as important. That is evident by the fact that in October she was accepted into the National Honor Society, the premier academic organization for any high school stu-

addition to her sports activities, Andrea is also involved in lots of extracurricular ventures as well such as Students Against Drunk Driving, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Indian Club, Student Council and Who's Who Among American High School Students just to name a few.

You want to know about her character? Ask those who have seen it on the field and off. "Andrea is a very competitive, yet compassionate athlete, who gives 110% on and off the field," said assistant soccer coach Tonya Kinard. Tony Pacheco, Head

probably a safe bet that she will be successful because of her work ethic and attitude.

She has done well with cross country so far this year. She placed third at the Owasso meet in the fall and placed second at two other meets. She qualified for the state meet which was held at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa and finished seventh in the cross country event. She will receive her State jacket in August 2006. Understandably, Andrea's parents, coaches and community are all proud of this multi-talented young lady.

2006 North American Indigenous Games looking for performers

DENVER — The Cultural Village at the 2006 North American Indigenous Games is looking for performers and will provide thousands of Native American and First Nations people the opportunity to share their rich cultures and traditions. It will be a continuously running presentation of the colorful and important cultures and histories of the many tribal nations participating in The Games.

The North American Indigenous Games is a large-scale multi-sport and culture celebration offering competition in 16 sports for youth between the ages of 13-19 and adults ages 20 and over. The event will once again be kicked off by the opening ceremo-

nies, held this year on July 1 at Denver's Invesco Field at Mile High Stadium. It will run through July 9 and coordinators are strongly urging performers to participate in the activities going on at the Cultural Village. This is a great way for those interested to share their tribal customs and histories.

For information on the event or to volunteer as a performer contact the Colorado Indigenous Games Society toll free at (888) 623-3513 or log on to their website at www.naig2006.com. Deadline for performer registration will be January 30, 2006.

Tulsa library to host tribute to American Indian Athletes

TULSA — On Saturday, January 28 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Maxwell Park Library, Matt Roberts will bring Jim Thorpe and other American Indian athletes to life with books, photos, figurines, trading cards and audio and video clips.

The program is for ages 5-12 and the kids will have opportunity to meet and interact with Roberts. Seating is limited, with children getting first priority. Adults will be admitted if there is space available.

For more information, contact the Maxwell Park Library at (918) 669-6055.

Sequoyah Lady Indians go back-to-back at Shrine Classic

MUSKOGEE — It was deja vu at this year's Bedouin Shrine classic in the large school girl's bracket.

Tahlequah Sequoyah, the top ranked team in class 3A, won the tournament for the second consecutive year with a 62-41 victory in the championship game over the 6A Muskogee Lady Roughers.

The game, held at the Muskogee Civic Assembly Center, was close in the early stages before Sequoyah eventually pulled away. The Lady Indians are usually paced by sophomore sensation Angel Goodrich, but instead got the biggest boost from Shawna Singleterry and her 34 point performance.

The early stages of the game were marked by each team helping each other out, as there were a host of turnovers committed by both teams in the beginning. Muskogee took advantage first holding a 16-10 lead after the first quarter. But it was all Sequoyah from there on out as they turned up the heat defensively and switched the six point deficit into a 34-19 halftime lead. It was a lead they would never relinquish.

Sequoyah took better care of the ball as the game progressed and really opened the game up by connecting from long range on their three-point shots, mostly as Singleterry started to catch fire.

The Lady Indians were playing in their second tournament of the year. They took third place in the Oklahoma's Best of the Best tournament held last month at the University of Tulsa's Reynolds Center, losing to eventual champion and 5A #1 East Central. At the conclusion of the game, the honors did not stop with the presentation of the championship trophy.

Singleterry, who paced the Lady Indians as the game's high scorer, and teammate Angel Goodrich, whose solid defense and 17 points both contributed to the winning effort, were both named to the All-Tournament team.

OLD SCHOOL vs. NEW SCHOOL

Should college athletes be allowed to leave early for professional sports?



After that, The school still invests in you by giving you free perks such as a room

and board. Then, if you're good, you are given a full media blitz treatment by having your name become a household word because the school you committed to advertise you. Then you suddenly leave. Talk about the dog that bites the hand. Whatever happens to commitment and the long-term? Isn't that the American way? Oh, almost forgot! The American way is to make money...fast!



professional sports. I don't really agree that rules and regulations should shape the

I've always had the opinion that if a player is skilled enough to translate their game to the next level then they should be allowed to make the jump to professional sports. I don't really agree that rules and regulations should shape the

decisions that somebody would obviously be making on behalf of their personal life. I do believe that these type of decisions should be carefully planned and thought out, because an opportunity for a college education is not something to waste. But, if the player is definitely talented enough like a LeBron James or Vince Young, then they should get a shot.



MacIntosh Family story made available through Creek Council House Museum



NIGA announced continued financial support of Artrain USA's exhibition



Ike's chili for all seasons



Longest running Native American Film Festival releases '05 results

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — The 30th Annual American Indian Film Festival, presented by the American Indian Film Institute (AIFI) closed Saturday, Nov. 12 to a sold-out audience at the American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show held at the Palace of Fine Arts.

With an attendance of over 5,000 during the eight day film venue, the American Indian Film Festival continues to be the most dominant outlet for Native American films from USA American Indian and Canada First Nation communities.

For over 30 years the American Indian Film Festival has featured groundbreaking films and documentaries, such as American Indian People, and this year was no exception with two select theatre venues at the UA Galaxy Theatre and the historic Palace of Fine Arts. This year showcasing over 62 films, documentaries and shorts with four independent feature films, the American Indian Film Festival commits to showcasing artistic growth and development. The 30th Annual American Indian Film Festival welcomed various US and World premieres. Many were nominees at the 2005 American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show.

The World Premiere of *Sleepdancer*, a tale of a torn-love, deceit and family was introduced by award-winning director Rodrick Ocowatchit. The World Premiere of California's *Lost Tribes* with director Jedd Riffe presenting the film, was the first documentary to go behind the facade of the glitz and glamour of American Indian casinos. US premiere of *Johnny Tootall*, a film about rebirth, recovery and finding one's self was introduced by award-winning writer and director Shirley Cheechoo, as well as co-stars Alex Rice and Nathaniel Arcand. A diverse assortment of films were showcased throughout the eight day venue during the matinee and evening programs at the American Indian Film Festival.

Several of the films made an impressionable impact on audiences. *Healing Our Spirits* directed by Lexie Tom & Michael Shepard, an investigative documentary about the two massive burial site desecrations on the Lummi Reservation in Washington State; *Aleut Story* directed by Marla J. Williams, narrated by Martin Sheen, recounts the rarely told story about the indigenous Alaskans fight for civil rights after their forced internment during WWII; *The Gift of Diabetes* directed by Brion Whitford charts his journey about being diagnosed with diabetes and how he goes back to his Native roots and traditions to heal himself; The Salt Song Trail: *Bringing Creation Back Together* directed by Esther Figueroa visits the sacred Salt Songs of the Southern Paiute people; Feature Film premiere of *5th World* directed by Blackhorse Lowe, offers a moving and

insightful glimpse inside contemporary Navajo culture; Feature film premiere of *Hank Williams First Nation* directed by Aaron James Sorensen, tells the story of a sleepy, remote, Indian reservation in Northern Canada that gets stirred up when one of its elders, Martin Fox, begins to question the death of Hank Williams.

On opening night, the Festival celebrated its 30th anniversary, with 3 screenings and a nearly sold out audience of 600 people at the UA Galaxy Theatre in San Francisco on Saturday, Nov. 5. The opening night film was the highly- anticipated

sixteen films represented by seven tribes across the USA, including this year's films from the United Auburn Indian Community.

The student-made films were watched by various students from the Bay Area as well as the student filmmakers from the United Auburn Indian Community. Comedy and drama were the themes for the films and were met with an enthusiastic audience. Actress Alex Rice star of *Johnny Tootall* and filmmaker /actress Pamela Matthews hosted the program.

Tribal Touring Program mentors

ema showcases.

The lineup featured performances by established and emerging Native artists and performers. Each year the American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show showcases the exceptional talent of Native American artists. The Awards Show is a meeting place where American Indian artists, directors and producers can meet and interact in the spirit of the American Indian and Canada First Nations.

This year there was an eclectic mix of performers from a ventriloquist, comedians, Inuit throat singers, award-winning singers and a classical violinist. On Friday Nov. 11, the awards pre-show kicked off with an audience of over 760 and was hosted by comedian, Charlie Hill.

A special screening of *Johnny Tootall* was showcased with director Shirley Cheechoo and co-stars Alex Rice and Nathaniel Arcand in person presenting the film.

Two music videos were also showcased, *Meegwetch* and *Sunny Days*, which was introduced by two emerging Native artists, accomplished Saulteaux singer Tamara Podemski and Tulalip Tribes rapper, Redskin.

The live entertainment included classical violinist Swil Kanim, comedians James and Ernie, All Nations Powwow singers accompanied by traditional dancers, folk and blues singer Star Nayea, who premiered her new song for the 30th Annual American Indian Film Festival, singer-song writer Tamara Podemski, and Aqsarniit-Inuit throat singers Madeleine Allakariallak and Sylvia Cloutier.

The performances were just a small taste of what they would perform on Saturday night's American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show. On Saturday Nov. 12, to a sold-out audience of over 900 at the Palace of Fine Arts, fourteen prestigious awards were given to those with exceptional Native cinematic talent. Hosting the awards show was actress Tantoo Cardinal and actor Michael Horse.

Outstanding singing performances varied across the talent venue, which included singer-song writer Tamara Podemski, singer Crystal Shawanda, folk and blues singer Star Nayea who was met with deafening applause after her song "Grassdancer", and Aqsarniit-Inuit throat singers-Madeleine Allakariallak and Sylvia Cloutier. Three Native comedians, included James & Ernie, ventriloquist Buddy Big Mountain and Charlie Hill, shared the same stage all bringing forth laughter and excitement to the audience.

2005 American Indian Motion Picture Award Winners: Best Film, *Johnny Tootall* directed by Shirley Cheechoo. Best Director, Aaron James Sorensen, *Hank Williams First Nation*. Best Actor, Adam Beach, *Johnny Tootall*. Best Actress, Stacy Da Silva, *Hank Williams First Nation*.

pated documentary *Trudell* directed by Heather Rae, based on one of the most iconic activists in recent history, John Trudell. Two other films also premiered, *SA'AH* directed by Sarah Del Seronde and *The Winter Chill* directed by Paul M. Rickard.

Activist John Trudell, directors Heather Rae, Sarah Del Seronde and Paul M. Rickard were in person to answer questions to the nearly sold-out audience. 2005 American Indian Film Festival AIFI's, Best of the Tribal Touring Program, a Native youth film workshop program, supported by The James Irvine Foundation, LEF Foundation, and tribal host partners, successfully screened over

producer Jack Kohler *California's Lost Tribes* and Larry Lowe director of *5th World*, were also in-person. Students had the opportunity to ask questions to the actors and directors as well as the student filmmakers.

The Festival closed with a two night spectacular event with the American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show, which featured live entertainment including comedy and music at the Palace of Fine Arts.

The American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show (established in 1978), has recognized excellence in American Indian cinematic achievement, making the annual awards show one of the most prominent Indian Country and Native Cin-

Movies at a Glance with Josh Slane

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe is perhaps the best fantasy movie to hit box offices since the *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy and mirrors the *Lord of the Rings* in several ways, including its wonderful action and epic scope.

For those that don't know Narnia is a separate world, created by the Great Lion Aslan, a world where animals can

speak and creatures such as the Centaur and Minotaur live and breathe, a world that is meant to be united under the rule of a child of Adam or Daughter of Eve (ie. human).

Which brings up one of the more interesting (in my opinion at least) points



of the movie, it's heavily Christian symbolism. This movie manages to explain much of the Christian religion on a level that children can grasp and understand, but does it without being actually religious in nature.

And while the religious overtones and plot

line might be simple enough for a child to grasp, this movie isn't only meant for children, there is plenty of plot and depth for the movie to please an adult just as surely as it does the children.

So all in all *The Chronicles of Narnia: Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* is an outstanding movie. Movies at a Glance is brought to you by the Dickinson Starworld 20 Theater in Tulsa.



Ted Isham

Creek Council House Museum Curator

OKMULGEE — The purpose of the museum is to preserve and interpret the Creek Council House and to bring an understanding of the history and culture of the Muscogee (Creek) people. The museum is a joint project of the Creek Indian Memorial Association, a private nonprofit corporation and the City of Okmulgee.

The museum's history began when Judge Orlando B. Swain created the Creek Indian Memorial Association in 1923 to preserve Muscogee (Creek) culture and history, and to utilize the Council House as an educational center for

others wanting to learn about Native history, art and culture.

The Creek Council House was constructed in 1878 by the Muscogee (Creek) people. The Council House served as the Capitol in which tribal affairs were conducted. The facilities contained separate chambers for the Executive and Judicial branches of government, and the Legislative branch, which was divided into the House of Kings and the House of Warriors.

In 1906, after tribal sovereignty was abolished by the United States Government, the Department of Interior gained possession of the Council House. In 1919, the City of Okmulgee purchased the building and grounds.

The Council House and surrounding grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Sites and in 1961 was designated as a National Historic Landmark. In 1989, the Creek Indian Memorial

Association initiated massive efforts for a complete historic restoration on the building. In 1993, the Creek Council House Museum received the National Preservation Honor Award by the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the restoration.

In 1919 "Demolitionists" tried to tear down the stone wall surrounding the Council House. They wanted to have the entire structure torn down. In 1928, another group wanted to replace the Council House with a more functional and updated building.

Humorist, Will Rogers, was credited with helping save the structure when he said, "You can go to any town in the country and find a post office and a hotel, but there is only one town where you can find a Creek Council House."

The museum's permanent collection and archives chronicle the sociocultural history of the Muscogee (Creek) people before

and after their forced removal from tribal lands in Georgia and Alabama. Focus is on the areas of: Muscogee homelands, Muscogee Confederacy, Muscogee in Indian Territory Oklahoma, Council House History, Government and Law, Education and Schools, Ceremony and Religion, and Artists.

The Red Stick Gallery offers a variety of elegant Native American gifts.

Hand crafted jewelry, bead work, basketry, pottery, apparel and prints are all of the finest quality. A visit to the gallery concludes a unique experience at the museum.

Museum Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 am - 4:30 pm and Sunday and Monday closed. The Creek Council House Museum is located at 106 West 6th Street on the square in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. For more information call (918) 756-2324.

MacIntosh Family Story

The following MacIntosh family story is authored by John Bartlett Merserve and documentation is provided through the Creek Council House Museum.

A son of Captain John MacIntosh was William MacIntosh who became a Tory captain in the British service during the War of the Revolution. He was probably in command of a contingent of Creek Indian allies of the British service during the contingent of Creek Indian allies of the British during the war. Captain William MacIntosh lived among the Creek Indians at Coweta, Georgia, where he married two Creek Indian women and by one of them became the father of William MacIntosh, the colorful Creek Indian Chief. By the other wife, he became the father of Roderick, known variant among the Creek Indians as Roley MacIntosh.

Chief William MacIntosh son of Captain William MacIntosh was born at Coweta, Georgia, in 1778. He was denied the finished culture which his cousin, the celebrated Governor had enjoyed, but whatever he may have lacked in the refinements of scholastic training was quite fully compensated in the poise, ability and acumen with which nature had endowed him. He became a character of prominence and commanding influence among the Coweta or Lower Creeks and was the Chieftain of the faction from about 1800 until his death in 1825. Chief MacIntosh amassed considerable wealth and his plantation home at Indian Springs, Georgia, where he was served by a retinue of slaves and where his herds and flocks grazed at will, was elegant in all of its appointments. Two Indian wives, graced his home, Susanna Coe, a Creek woman and Peggy a Cherokee. Residing at another plantation home some fifty distant and which he owned, was a third wife, Eliza, a daughter of Stephen Hawkins. This modern Solomon arrayed in oriental splendor, was tall, finely formed, of a graceful commanding poise and his plantation home became the rendezvous of the United States Commissioners dealing with the Indian tribes in Georgia only to provoke his own summary execution later at the hands of the enraged Creek Indians.

In its early dealing with the Indians, the United States was not always exactly consistent. Many unfair practices which the end may seem to have justified, were indulged to divest the tribes of their ancient homes. The representatives of the government were not remiss in making convenient the employment of corrupt officials among the Indians to accomplish title to Indian lands. Bribes were scattered among influential leaders, threats were made and engagements broken by commissioners who represented the government.

Against these invasions of his ancient prescriptive tenure, the Indian was without a "remedy at law" and hence this was the path. Hatred, jealousy and bloodshed were occasioned by practices manifestly unfair. "Many, if not most, of our Indian wars have had their origin in broken promises and acts of injustice on our part" said President Hayes in his message to Congress in December 1877.

On April 24, 1802, the United States, in consideration of the relinquishment by the state of Georgia of all claims to the Mississippi territories (Alabama and Mississippi) engaged to extinguish the Creek Indian titles to all lands within the borders of the state "as early as could be peaceably done on reasonable terms."

From thenceforth the people of Georgia began continuously to clamor for the fulfillment of the engagement by the government. The initial cession was procured from the Creeks by the treaty at Washington made on November 14, 1805. By this agreement, the Creeks transferred millions of acres of their Georgia lands to the state. This agreement was negotiated upon the part of the Creeks by Chief William MacIntosh, the chieftain of the Lower Creeks. At the conclusion of the Creek war of 1813-14, General Andrew Jackson imposed another "treaty" upon the subdued Creeks and compelled them to yield a large portion of their domain which was oped to white settlement. This "treaty" was made at Ft. Jackson, Alabama, on August 9, 1814 and again Chief MacIntosh presumed to represent the Indians. The Lower Creeks were led by Chief MacIntosh in the Creek War of 1813-14 as allies of General Jackson, at which time he was a commissioned colonel in the regular army. He was prominent against the recalcitrant members of his own tribe at Horsehoe Bend on March 17, 1814 and yet he was recognized by General Jackson as the representative of the subdued belligerents when he imposed the harsh terms of peace. MacIntosh promoted another treaty at the Creek Agency, Georgia on January 22, 1818 and again the Creeks were divested of a large fraction of their acreage. The Creeks were again bound by the treaty of January 8, 1821, at Indian Springs, arranged by the resourceful MacIntosh and a further divestiture of lands resulted.

The Creeks were now becoming

alarmed at the prospective wholesale alienation of their ancient domain by Chief MacIntosh, although chief only of the Lower Creeks, had presumed to represent the entire Creek Confederacy and the Commissioners of the United States had so recognized him although they well knew his limitations of authority. In defiance of the law passed by the Creek Council in 1824 imposing the death penalty, MacIntosh undertook by a treaty at his home at Indian Springs, on February 12, 1825, to divest the hap-

less Creeks of the remaining portion of their Georgia lands.

A delegation of the Upper Creeks warned MacIntosh of his doom under the law if he signed the treaty.

For the first time in his venal career, the Chief hesitated, but having assurances of protection from the United States Commissioners and from his highly influential

cousin, the Governor of the State of Georgia, he signed the treaty as did also a number of the Lower town chiefs including his son Chilly, although it was repudiated and unsigned by a majority of the Indian representatives. Chief MacIntosh was subsequently tried, in his absence, before the Creek Council under the law of 1824 and sentenced to be shot, the order for his execution being given by Little Prince, the Principal Chief of the Confederacy. The Chieftain was not disposed to dignify this action by the Council as an affair of much seriousness. He doubtless felt that his status was impregnable and manifestly he had reason to feel so. He had settlers as expressed through both the National and State Governments. General Jackson was his personal friend and had so expressed himself in commendatory terms after the Creek War. He had the assurances of Campbell and Meriweather, the United States Commissioners. In the Governors chair at Milledgeville sat his cousin having the astute troops at his disposal.

When the fatal moment came General Jackson and the regulars were far away, the Commissioners had returned to Washington to interest Congress in a ratification of the treaty and the Governor of Georgia was otherwise engaged.

A party of more than one hundred lighthorsemen under command of Chief Menewa of the Upper Creeks departed from Tuckabatchee to apprehend the Chief and exact the penalty of execu-

tion. In the still hours of the morning his Indian Springs home was surrounded by the execution party, the members of the family included his son Chilly who was light and hence unrecognized were permitted to retire, a torch was applied to the dwelling and in the cold, gray dawn of April 30, 1825, Chief MacIntosh walked from the flames which enveloped the house to a hideous, cruel death at the hands of his tribesmen. His Scalplock was removed and bound back to Tuckabatchee as a return of the order of execution and thus another tragic chapter of Creek Indian history was concluded. The death of Chief MacIntosh was not an isolated tragedy. The MacIntosh family was one of the wealthiest of the Creek Nation. The men were of high Christian character and ability and capable of forming an intelligent conviction upon questions of public moment and were possessed of the fearlessness and courage to express themselves. It was not unnatural that their sympathies should have been with the South in its struggle.

To read the MacIntosh Story in its entirety please contact the Creek Council House Museum at (918) 756-2324. The MacIntosh Story is one of the many historical chronicles the Creek Council house holds along with art, and culture available to the public. Visiting the Council House is, in a sense, like stepping back in time. With stories such as the *MacIntosh Family History* to simple pictures of the past, you can find a large array of past and present information about the Creek Nation, to better understand the culture, traditions and general way of life.

Tulsa Indian Art Festival

February 17-19, 2006

Fri. 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m.

Join artists, collectors of fine art and gallery owners in a celebration of American Indian Art and Culture.

The festival is a showcase of fine art and tradition honoring the spirit of the American Indian. There will be storytelling, American Indian food, student art competition & exhibit, demonstrations, dancing, educational exhibits and more.

Tulsa Event Center is located at 2625 South Memorial Drive in Tulsa. General Admission is \$5.00. Preview Night is \$40.00, reservations only.

Artist reception & poster signing, including dance performances, wine tasting, and Juried Art Awards. February 17, 2006 at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact randi@nimi.us.

TulsaPromotions

SWEETHEART OF A DEAL

We're here to make your life a little sweeter at Creek Nation Casino! 60 winners will be awarded every day through February 28, with drawings at 9 am, 12 pm, 3 pm, 6 pm, 9 pm, and 12 am. Each person whose name is drawn will choose a candy bar worth up to \$10,000 in cash. It will definitely be the richest chocolate you have ever had!

THE GREAT 8 ATV GIVEAWAY

We are giving away an ATV every Tuesday night at Creek Nation Casino! Register at the Players Club starting at 6 pm every Tuesday through February 28. We will have hourly cash drawings for \$100 from 7 pm to 9 pm leading up to our ATV giveaway each Tuesday at 10 pm.

2006 SUPER BOWL SPECTACULAR (FEBRUARY 5)

Catch every moment of the big game and take home some cash during our 2006 Super Bowl Spectacular. Begin registering at Guest Services at 5 pm for \$100 drawings every hour from 6 pm to 11 pm. Enjoy watching the game on our plasma televisions throughout the casino and enjoy free snacks and beverages.

IF YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE

Having trouble sleeping? Or are you a night owl? Head down to Creek Nation Casino for our new late night promotion! Swipe in at Guest Services starting at 11 pm every Sunday through Wednesday in February for \$150 drawings from 12 am - 3 am and a final drawing at 4 am for \$400!

MEN'S NIGHT - Big League Fantasy

The Big League Fantasy Grand Prize Winner will receive a trip for two to the 2006 NBA Finals, 2006 Stanley Cup Finals, 2006 World Series and 2007 Super Bowl. Every Wednesday between 7 pm and 10 pm, drawings will be held every half hour with prizes totaling \$2,500. At 10 pm, we will pick two lucky winners to receive \$500 plus a Big League Fantasy Certificate that could possibly earn you the Big League Fantasy Grand Prize on February 22!

LADIES NIGHT - Queen of Machines

Ladies, swipe your cards starting at 6 pm every Monday, because at 7 pm, 50 ladies will be drawn to compete in our \$10 match play tournament. The winner of each round will play in the final round of the night totaling \$2,500 in cash prizes. Plus, the top two scores from each week's tournament will win a seat in our Bring Back Tournament on February 20 to compete for a 2006 Chevy Cobalt!

SENIORS WAKE UP AND WIN

Seniors, rise and shine at Creek Nation Casino Mondays through Thursdays. From 9 am to 1 pm, our valued senior guests will receive \$5 free play and complimentary breakfast at our Jackpot Café. What better way to start the day than with Creek Nation Casino's Wake Up and Win promotion.

POKER PROMOTIONS: SUPER BOWL POKER PARTY

Join us in the Poker Room during the Super Bowl from 2 pm - 2 am for \$200 hourly cash drawings. Any drawing that does not go will roll over to the final drawing at 2 am. Players must be playing at a poker table to be eligible.

THE BIG BOUNTY POKER TOURNAMENT

Play in The Big Bounty, our newest No Limit Hold'em Tournament every Thursday and Sunday at 7 pm and receive an extra \$20 for every player you eliminate!

Registration begins at 6:30 pm and is open to everyone, with a total buy-in of \$115.

DAILY RIVER SHOWDOWN

Pull up a seat in Oklahoma's most upscale Poker Room for our Daily River



Showdown tournaments starting at 9 am. Registration begins at 8:30 am and is open to everyone, with a total buy-in of just \$30.

MEN'S NIGHT - THE BIG ONE POKER TOURNAMENT

The Big One, Creek Nation Casino's Men's Night no-limit Texas Hold'em tournament starts at 7 pm every Wednesday, with registration beginning at 6:30 pm (\$115 total buy-in).

LADIES TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENTS

Ladies Night Texas Hold'em tournaments start at 7 pm every Monday. Registration begins at 6:30 pm and is open to all ladies, with a total buy-in of just \$30.

BLACKJACK PROMOTIONS

Paydays of Spades: Receive a suited spaded Blackjack and win a bonus of \$25 during our Paydays of Spades promotion. With our now famous Envy Bonus, each player at the table who is actively betting will be awarded a bonus matching his or her original bet, up to \$10. Other great bonuses include: 7-7-7 of Spades - \$150; 6-7-8 of Spades - \$100. (24 hours a day, seven days a week)

NIGA challenges gaming tribes to support Artrain USA

WASHINGTON D.C. — The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) announced it's continued financial support of Artrain USA's national touring art exhibition *Native Views: Influences in Modern Culture*. This contemporary Native American exhibition is touring coast to coast through December 2007 and will reach more than 100 communities nationwide. Artrain USA recently completed its 2005 schedule traveling to states in the Northeast, including New York and the Washington D.C. area. In 2006 Artrain USA will focus on the West Coast and Alaska, and in 2007 it will visit Florida and the central states.

"This tour is very important because it reaches audiences who may never go to a museum or visit an exhibition," said NIGA Chairman Ernest Stevens, Jr. "NIGA is honored to provide financial support to this project and encourages tribes throughout the nation to do the same. Indian people have always used art as a means of cultural and individual expression. It is through exhibition like *Native Views* that Native and non-Natives alike may gain a deeper understanding of our society and ourselves."

The Gila River Indian Community of Arizona is the first Tribal nation to respond to NIGA's challenge and made a \$2,500 donation.

"Artrain USA is making an impact on Indian Country and it should be supported," said NIGA Executive

Director Mark Van Norman. "We feel it is important to present the Native American point of view in art, and *Native Views* is an excellent exhibition."

Though the *Native Views* national tour, Artrain USA is working with Tribes, Native American organizations and communities, arts groups, museums, libraries, and a host of others to develop cross-cultural collaborations involving diverse populations.

These collaborations have a long-term positive benefits for the partnering organizations and their communities. Artrain USA expects to welcome 100,000 visitors in 50 Native and non-Native communities over the remaining two years of the four-year project. *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture* displays more than 70 contemporary artworks by 54 living Native American artists from over 45 Native American Nations. Guest curator, Jonna Bigfeather (Western Cherokee and Mescalero Apache) redefines Native art by broadening the limits and confronting the stereotypes that currently define it. Visitors discover the

richness, complexity, and breadth of contemporary Native American art while examining varying perspectives on society. Among the artists are Kay

Walkingstick (Cherokee), James Lavadour (Walla Walla / Umatilla), Gail Tremblay (Onodaga / Micmac), Harry Fonseca (Nisena / Maidu), and Roxanne Swentzell (Santa Carla Pueblo).

Artrain USA is a nonprofit arts organization headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Its mission is to enrich lives and build communities through the arts. An art museum housed in vintage rail cars that travels via the nation's railways, Artrain USA brings world class art exhibitions and art education programs to communities and their residents. Artrain USA delivers exceptional opportunities for learning, growth, and art appreciation while encouraging the development of local cultural programs and organizations. Since its inception in 1971, has welcomed more than 3 million visitors during the 800 community visits.

NIGA, established in 1985 is a

nonprofit organization of 168 Indian Nations with other nonvoting associate members representing organizations, tribes, and businesses engaged in tribal gaming enterprises from around the country. The common commitment and purpose of NIGA is to advance the lives of Indian peoples economically, socially, and politically. NIGA operates as a clearinghouse and an educational, legislative, and public policy resource for tribes, policy makers, and the public on Indian gaming issues and tribal community development.

The Gila River Indian Community is an alliance of two tribes, the Akimel O'odham (Pima) and the Pee Posh (Maricopa); it is the Indian Community in the Phoenix, Arizona metropolitan area. With a population over 19,000 members the goal of the Community is to provide quality service to residents living in each of its seven districts and continue to develop economic diversity to build a strong future for the Community through cultural projects such as Artrain USA.

For more information on NIGA visit www.IndianGaming.org or call (202) 546-7711. For information on the GROC visit www.groc.nsn.us/ or call (520) 562-6001. For information on Artrain USA and to view images from *Native Views* visit www.ArtrainUSA.org or call 1-800-ART-1971.



NIGA issues a statement concerning Jack Abramoff's guilty plea agreement

WASHINGTON D.C. — The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) is issuing a formal statement regarding Jack Abramoff's guilty plea agreement on Federal charges of conspiracy, mail fraud and tax evasion.

"It is indeed sad and very wrong that Mr. Abramoff violated the trust of so many. He violated the trust of not only Indian tribes but also politicians, banks and major corporations, charitable organizations, a Federal territory, his own law firm, and the public. Tribal governments, like state and

local governments, seek the assistance of lawyers and professionals to protect their government rights and further the legitimate goals of tribal communities. Mr. Abramoff was a member of a major national law firm and his clients, both Indian and non-Indian, were entitled to the highest standard of professional conduct," said NIGA chairman Ernest L. Stevens, Jr.

"The United States has a trust responsibility to protect Indian tribes. We are confident that the Justice Department will prosecute Mr. Abramoff

and other offenders like Mr. Scanlon who knowingly conspired with him, to the full extent of the law, and we fully support the Department's efforts," said Stevens.

"Abramoff's conviction makes clear that there is a legal framework in place to protect Indian tribes from fraud. As the court ordered, the tribes that were injured by his fraud deserve to be compensated."

NIGA, established in 1985 is a nonprofit organization of 168 Indian Nations with other nonvoting associ-

ate members representing organizations, tribes, and businesses engaged in tribal gaming enterprises from around the country. The common commitment and purpose of NIGA is to advance the lives of Indian peoples economically, socially, and politically. NIGA operates as a clearinghouse and an educational, legislative, and public policy resource for tribes, policy makers, and the public on Indian gaming issues and tribal community development.

Chili: It's not just for Winter anymore

TULSA — In 1988, a poll was conducted in Oklahoma. Although the survey is a little outdated, odds are the results haven't really changed that much. Cultural geographer, John Milbauer, conducted a foodways survey of Oklahoma restaurants and concluded that chicken fried steak, chili, and barbecue were among Oklahomans' favorite foods.

The unique mixture of chili, or con carne for you hard-core purists, which basically requires ground beef, red chili powder, and just about anything red or spicy, has always been a local favorite, especially among Native Americans.

Hardly can one attend a Church singing, Community meeting dinner, or some special Indian function, and not find the special dish that is certainly a "God-send". Even though it seems that winter is when people seem to really concentrate on creating the "perfect" bowl of chili. But don't let falling temperatures and a little bit of snow on the ground be the only reason that you enjoy chili. People enjoy other hot meals throughout the year, so don't limit yourself to just one season for this bowl of "good stuff".

Chili really does have Indigenous connections, even though the true roots of it began just south of the border in Mexico.

In 1842, when Cherokee language creator Sequoyah and other tribal members were searching for survivors from the 1839 Texan-Cherokee war, they ventured to the Rio Grande area. Upon being introduced to some friendly hosts, they were treated to a spicy concoction of chunks of boiled meat seasoned with spicy peppers. The Indians, like today, didn't turn it down.

As chili made its historical march through generations and ages, it ventured northward across small Mexican and Texas towns. Picking up various styles and tastes that helped to define each region, such as your Southwest style chili, Texas chili (which traditionally doesn't contain any beans) and chili con carne (Mexican style) with beans. The rich foundation of this red dish helped to establish other sauces and mixtures for salsa, tamales and enchiladas as well.

In Oklahoma, a good bowl of chili crosses all racial barriers. Oklahomans like to compliment themselves on knowing how to make good chili, and most of the time it's true.

Even though Texas is the first U.S. State that likes to claim proper heritage to chili, the Sooner State is up for competition anytime. According to the Oklahoma Historical Society, in 1989, Chili USA, a Washington, D.C. based group led by former Oklahomans Lou Priebe and R.N. Dunagan III, convinced U.S. Rep. Glenn English of Cordell to co-sponsor legislation making chili the official food of the United States. The effort turned out to be primarily a media event but may reveal chili's symbolic role in the process of maintaining a group identity (and advertising Oklahoma). As to the suggestion that the Oklahoma variety was just like that of Texas, Chili USA responded that "the difference between Oklahoma chili and Texas chili is the difference between Will Rogers and J.R. Ewing."

Tulsa has one of the most historical



chili places of all. In 1909, Frank Morris had a chili parlor, a year later he hired Ivan "Ike" Johnson who went on to create "Ike's Chili House." Johnson would set up shop in the downtown area. As success continued, and expansion came, Johnson would experiment with options and added forms to the chili including spaghetti, or spaghetti with beans.

Back to Will Rogers, the famous Oklahoman often visited Ike's and called it "a bowl of blessedness". It's also been said that Rogers once turned down a banquet meal before a speaking engagement just so he could go to Ike's, saying "I can always eat chicken, but I can't always eat at Ike's!"

Ike's Chili House is now located at 5941 East Admiral Place. Restaurant hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Food Review: Jason Salsman

TULSA — When you arrive at Ike's Chili House in Tulsa, the first thing you see is the slogan painted on the window. It simply states "The Chili For All Seasons," and it truly is. You see, this place is a Tulsa landmark that packs a varied and one-

of-a-kind taste. It's no coincidence that the Tulsa World once wrote of Ike's, "Paris has its Foyot's, New York its Sherry's, New Orleans its Antoine's and Tulsa its Ike's."

I have to say that this restaurant is truly unique in the fact that it's sole culinary basis is chili. Many people have ate at restaurants bragging about their hamburgers and chili, but this place focuses solely on the con carne. Sure, there are varieties of the dish. It comes straight, with beans, three-way under a bed of spaghetti and topped on either a coney dog or a bundle of fritos for a delicious chili pie.

The service is great, with the wait staff attentive and eager to give out information on some of the more favorite items from some of the regular customers. We were told that most popular item on the menu would probably be the three way chili, as it was the one most often requested. Looking around at the lunch crowd it was hard not to assume that this establishment provided quality eats. It was packed and it seemed that only our party was visiting for the first time.

As we ordered our food the waitress informed us that we would be getting a fresh batch of chili that had just recently been made.

Not knowing any better, we were pleased thinking that the freshest batch had to also be the tastiest. But, the nice lady informed us that the older the chili the better it tastes because the spices get time to set in.

Our order came out rather quickly and it was easy to see that Ike's hangs their hat on cater-

ing to the hustle and bustle of the Tulsa lunch crowd. In and out and back to work is the idea when eating at Ike's, and the best part is that the food doesn't have a hurried taste.

The chili was delicious, just as we expected. It was not as overly hot but perfectly seasoned with the right blend of spices. Don't ask for the combination, the recipe has been a family secret for many years, only trusted to a select few who know how to conjure up the perfect concoction. Don't worry about heartburn with Ike's, it settles very nicely. You may be able to change that by applying Ike's flaming habenero sauce or the fiery chipotle, but I decided not to take the risk. Besides, to me it was just fine the way it was served splashed with just a tinge of Louisiana hot sauce. After finishing off a bowl of chili or a frito pie, customers can have their pick of an assortment of homemade cobblers a-la-mode. They offer cherry, peach, apple and blackberry for those who need a little extra at the end to top everything off. This was an enjoyable dining experience and one of the best kept secrets in Tulsa. Those who know the location certainly know the taste and they keep coming back for more of the one-of-a-kind experience.

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